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**OLYROOS
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ON FIRE**

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CUP

Midseason Report Card

SPECIAL

FEATURES

Australia's unwanted child

DRAGAN

STOJKOVIC

Profile on Yugoslav great

DARBY COACHING IN FIJI

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Steve Darby, Sydney Olympic's assistant coach, flew out late last week to Nadi then Suva, Fiji, to hold Level 3 coaching seminars for local coaches over the next 21 days.

Travelling with Darby to assist with seminars, is Andy Patel from Queensland's Gold Coast.

The former goalkeeper from Tranmere Rovers (England) and previously Director of Coaching in Tasmania and the ACT, Darby stated to ABSW just prior to his departure, "Both Andy and I are looking forward to doing these seminars in Fiji."

"Although I've never been to Fiji before, we in Australia already know that this tiny Pacific nation boasts of many talented players and we are looking forward to the challenge of our assignment."

"Just recently at my Club, (Sydney Olympic), we had trailing with us for a couple of weeks Fiji's Olympic Games captain, Asala Masi.

"He is a central attacking midfielder or striker and he surprised us with his athleticism", stated Darby.

Masi in fact scored the fourth goal last Saturday in Fiji's 4-0 demolition of the Solomon Islands during the Oceania Olympic Games qualifiers currently being played in Adelaide.

Both Darby and Patel are being sent to Fiji for three weeks, sponsored by the FIFA-Oceania Coaching Scheme to help improve the level of coaching in the Pacific.

PERTH ON ROAD TO GLORY

BY RICHARD KREIDER

Area Investments, the Consortium, committed to placing Perth's first ever team into the National League next season, received a huge boost at the Kingsway sporting complex last Sunday, when Perth Glory turned out for their very first public outing.

But it wasn't just the effortless 6-2 victory versus Premier League newcomers Kingsway Olympic that put the smiles on their faces, it would have also been the large crowd of curious onlookers that turned up for the early morning trial match.

"It's a good start" said Glory coach Gary Marocchi. "We only

played well in the first-half, but this was just a scratch match with only 11 players, and we have a lot more to come."

The remainder of the current Glory squad did not play because of being either contract bound, on holiday or overseas.

It only took three minutes for Perth to find the net through tall stopper Allan Armstrong. Steve Bourne netted the second four minutes later, then Armstrong headed home his second in the 20th minute.

South African striker Robin Diers calmly slotted another away in the 32nd minute, before Peter Murphy made it 5 at the



break two minutes later.

Former Perth Kangaroos captain Gareth Naven, scored the only goal for the visitors after the break aided by a deflection. With an unbeatable advantage, Glory eased off on the accelerator, to which Olympic responded with two goals.

Ivica Markovic opened the scoring for Kingsway with a second spot-kick in the 75th minute, after Terry Nicolaou slammed a

penalty onto the cross-bar minutes earlier.

Kingsway midfielder Andy Mason scored the goal of the game four minutes from time, a 20 metre curling riser that found the far corner of the net.

Those players that Marocchi was pleased with include defenders Armstrong, Scott Clissold and Carlos Rodriguez, Naven and Murphy.

Glory play another friendly this Sunday against Bayswater Panthers at Elstead Reserve, before participating in a Joe Faria benefit game a week later. Their first real test will be against visiting J-League side Cerezo Osaka next month.

NORTHERN YOUTH LEAGUE LES SCHEINFLUG CUP GRAHAM ARNOLD CUP

Sunday 14th January
ROUND 14

MARCONI FAIRFIELD2
J. Harris (2)	
AIS0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Marconi Fairfield	16	13	1	2	60	12	40
Sydney United	15	11	0	4	32	17	33
ACT Academy	17	9	2	6	34	33	29
AIS	14	8	2	4	43	23	26
UTS Olympic	17	7	3	7	37	27	24
Wollongong City	16	7	2	7	32	35	23
Qld Acad of Sport	13	7	1	5	37	20	22
Parramatta Eagles	14	5	4	5	27	25	19
Blacktown City	16	5	4	7	27	38	19
Newcastle Breaker	16	4	2	10	20	38	14
St George	13	2	1	10	12	46	7
NSW ITC	15	2	0	13	6	55	6

Wednesday 10th January
Deferred Round 5

SYDNEY UNITED2
CENTRAL COAST2

Saturday 13th January
Deferred Round 3

BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS4
CENTRAL COAST5

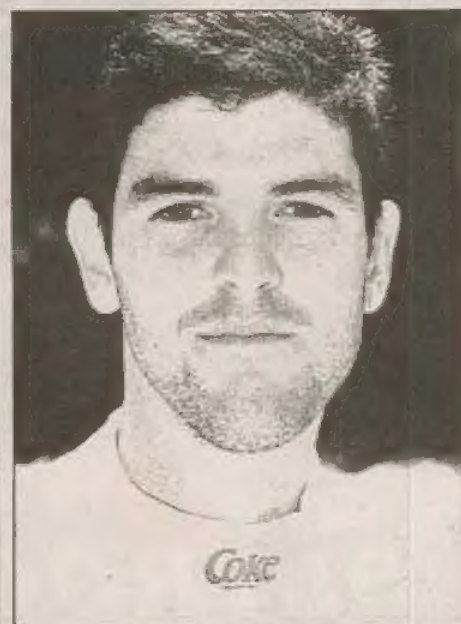
Deferred Round 6

CANTERBURY BERRIES0
LEICHHARDT TIGERS2

	P	W	S	D	L	F	A	Pt
Central Coast	7	4	3	0	0	19	13	18
Macarthur Rams	7	4	2	0	1	14	10	16
Warringah Dolphin	6	3	2	0	1	11	7	13
Sydney United	7	2	3	0	2	10	9	12
Leichhardt Tigers	6	4	0	0	2	10	9	12
Illawarra Lions	5	3	1	0	1	12	5	11
Rockdale City Sun	7	3	1	0	3	14	12	11
UTS Olympic	7	3	0	1	3	7	4	10
Bankstown City	7	3	0	1	3	16	14	10
Bonnyrigg WE	6	2	1	0	3	9	14	8
Parramatta Eagles	5	1	2	0	2	4	10	7
Sutherland Sharks	6	2	0	0	4	10	8	6
Canterbury Berrie	6	1	0	0	5	4	15	3
Adamstown R'bud	6	0	1	0	5	7	17	2

STAR PROFILE Joe Spiteri

AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC
GAMES QUALIFIERS



Date of Birth: May 6th, 1973
Birthplace: Melbourne, Victoria

Previous Clubs: Green Gully, Heidelberg United, Albion, Parramatta Eagles

Current Club: Melbourne Knights

Position: Striker

Nickname: "Spitfire"

Marital Status: Single

Occupation: Student-Bachelor of Business in Computers

Best Aspect Of Your Game: Pace and strength

Most Difficult Opponent: The next one

Most Impressive Local Player: Danny Tiatto

Favourite Overseas Player: Robbie Fowler

Favourite Overseas Club: Liverpool

Euro '96 Tip: Croatia or Italy

What Qualities Make a Good Coach: Knowledge, discipline and to be a good communicator.

Most unwanted Dinner Guest: John Markovski (he'd cost too much to feed)

Honours: Victoria's Under 11s to Under 14s, Senior State, Schoolboys, current Olympic squad and National squad

Ambitions For 1996: Qualify for Atlanta Games and win the Ericsson League with the Knights again

Ambitions After Retiring: To have enough money to live comfortably

Most Memorable Moment: Playing in front of huge crowd in Argentina and winning last season's League championship in Adelaide against Adelaide City

Hobbies Outside Soccer: Golf and computers

Best Goal You've Seen Scored: Too many to list

Favourite Food: Pasta

Favourite Drink: Water

Car You Drive: Mazda 626 Hatch V.6

Favourite TV Show: Seinfeld

TV Show You Refuse To Watch: All Soapies

Favourite Movie: Pulp Fiction

Favourite Actor/Actress: Andrew Marth and Sharon Stone

Preferred Music: Top 40

Least Preferred Music: Industrial Techno

Favourite Comedian: Rowan Atkinson and Jerry Seinfeld

Pet Hates: Smoking

Special Advice To Young Players: Always keep trying hard

Person You Would Most Like To Meet: Pele

By JOHN ECONOMOS

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SPORTSCENE

Several changes likely for Solomon Islands match

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Eddie Thomson, despite being satisfied with Australia's crushing 9-1 demolition of Vanuatu last Saturday night in Round 1 of the Olympic Games qualifiers currently being contested in Adelaide, refuses to disrespect the Solomon Islands, Australia's next opponent.



Eddie Thomson:
"No country will be taken for granted".

"No country will ever be taken for granted—that's for sure", Thomson stated last night.

In fact Thomson won't have to wait too long as Australia clashes with the Solomon Islands (thrashed 4-0 by Fiji in Round 1) tomorrow night (Wednesday) at the Hindmarsh Stadium in Round 3 of the Olympic Tournament.

Thomson has always maintained that the Solomon Islands, despite last Saturday's 4-0 loss, are technically advanced within the Pacific region.

Thomson stated late last night to ABSW: "Although the Solomons were down 4-0 to Fiji in the first half, I strongly believe it was just nerves that completely unsettled them as they went on to perform much better in the second half."

"I am certain as the tournament progresses the Solomons will progressively get better and settle down as they are already starting to show some nice touches."

Thomson then went on to add, "At this stage I might be changing goalkeepers for Wednesday's match and give Clint Bolton a run and may even decide to rest marker Mark Babic and give Luke Casserly a role in the central defence with Craig Moore."

"Kevin Muscat will almost certainly come in at sweeper."

"I am also keen to give Vinko Buljbasic a start on the right side and Ante Milicic will come into the attack to partner Joe Spiteri up front."

Spiteri up front.

"Big Mark Viduka is suffering from a slight virus so as a precaution I will rest him at this stage."

"Left-sided midfielder Ante Moric broke down at training and is struggling with his strained ligaments to his left knee so I will be retaining Paul Bilokapic for Wednesday night's match."

He has also maintained that the Solomon Islanders are capable of pulling off an upset one day. Thomson will make certain that that upset doesn't involve his Australian team.

Olyroo captain, Kevin Muscat, joined the Australian camp late in Adelaide, arriving back from England only last Sunday.

It's expected Thomson will rush the uncompromising Muscat back into the team for tomorrow night's clash, taking over the reins of the sweeper's role from the flexible Ross Aloisi.

Following tomorrow's clash with the Solomon Islands, Australia's third match has been set down for Friday against Fiji. Kick off is at 8pm.

The big one, on Sunday, also in the late match (8pm), is against bitter, and always dangerous rivals, New Zealand.

Giant striker Mark Viduka who briefly interrupted his fulltime career in Croatia, enthusiastically helped himself to a 'double' and caused much havoc to Vanuatu's back-line last Saturday night with his towering height and massive strength in the targetman's role.



Kevin Muscat: Australia's skipper back in action.

Relishing the link up once again with his former Melbourne Knights' lethal strike-partner Joe Spiteri, the two spearheaded Australia's goal-avalanche scoring five between them.

Viduka stated to ABSW last night: "Sure I was happy with my two goals and hopefully we should get through this tournament."

"We will get better as we go along I feel."

When questioned on his new career in Croatia, Viduka replied: "It's very hard, very different, but very good."

"I've been out with injuries for a while and only managed to play in just 12 games."

"But despite this, I have scored six goals to date over there", ended Viduka.

Whilst Viduka and Spiteri nailed a bag of goals between them and Gabriel Mendez weighed in with a double, Australia's star performer was Adelaide City's constructive and block-busting attacking right midfielder, Goran Lozanovski.

At last returned to his brilliant best, Lozanovski's powerful crashing raids, almost always culminated with lethal and piercing flat or high crosses to the back post, supplying Australia's strike-force with a glut of quality ball-service.

Thomson, although he will not finalise tomorrow's line-up until later tonight (Tuesday), is almost certain to rest Lozanovski for this match knowing full well his value to the team.

The national coach will almost certainly bring in the current league champions, Melbourne Knights, Vinko Buljbasic to operate the right flank.

AUSTRALIA'S LIKELY LINE-UP FOR TOMORROW NIGHT IS:

Goalkeeper: Clint Bolton.

Defence: Luke Casserly.

Kevin Muscat, Craig Moore.

Midfield: Vinko Buljbasic,

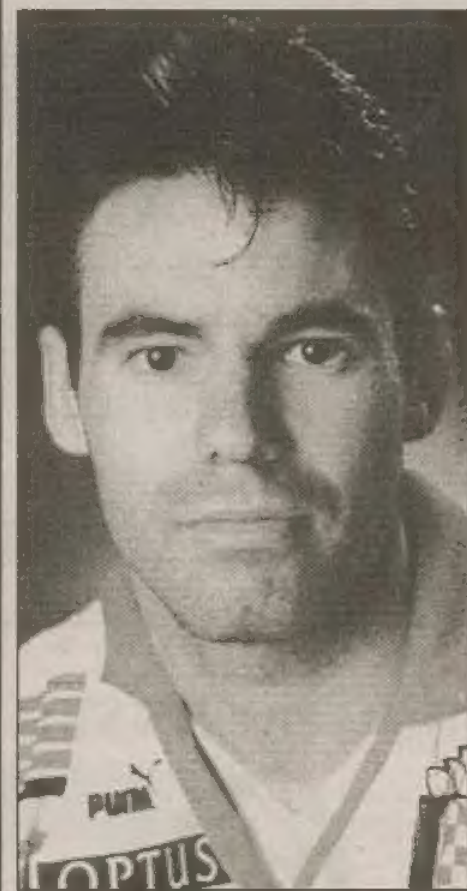
Gabriel Mendez, Peter Tsekis, Paul Bilokapic and

Danny Tiatto.

Strikers: Ante Milicic and Joe Spiteri.

STAR PROFILE Ante Milicic

AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC
GAMES QUALIFIERS



Date of Birth:	April 4th, 1974
Birthplace:	Sydney
Previous Clubs:	Sydney Croatia Juniors and A.I.S
Current Club:	Sydney United
Position:	Striker
Nickname:	"Tezza"
Marital Status:	Single
Occupation:	Fulltime player
Best Aspect Of Your Game:	Ball control, vision, passing and shooting
Most Difficult Opponent:	Tony Popovic at United's training
Most Impressive Local Player:	Manis Lamond
Favourite Overseas Player:	Maradona
Favourite Overseas Club:	Hajduk Split
Euro '96 Tip:	Croatia
What Qualities Make a Good Coach:	One that doesn't easily hit the panic-button following a loss
Most Unwelcome Dinner Guest:	Ante Moric (tongue-in-cheek)
Honours:	1993 World Youth Championships, current Olympic Games squad
Ambitions For 1996:	To get to the Atlanta Games and win the League with Sydney United
Ambitions After Retiring:	No plans as yet
Most Memorable Moment:	Always representing Australia
Hobbies Outside Soccer:	Snooker
Best Goal You've Seen Scored:	Too many to list
Favourite Food:	Chips and gravy
Favourite Drink:	Hot chocolate
Car You Drive:	Holden Club Sport
Favourite TV Show:	Bold and Beautiful
TV Show You Refuse To Watch:	Cheers
Favourite Movie:	Rocky IV
Favourite Actor/Actress:	Sylvester Stallone and Demi Moore
Preferred Music:	Bon Jovi
Least Preferred Music:	Classical
Favourite Comedian:	Eddie Murphy
Pet Hates:	All smokers
Special Advice To Young Players:	Carefully listen to all your coaches
Person You Would Most Like To Meet:	Taylor (from The Bold and Beautiful)

By John Economos

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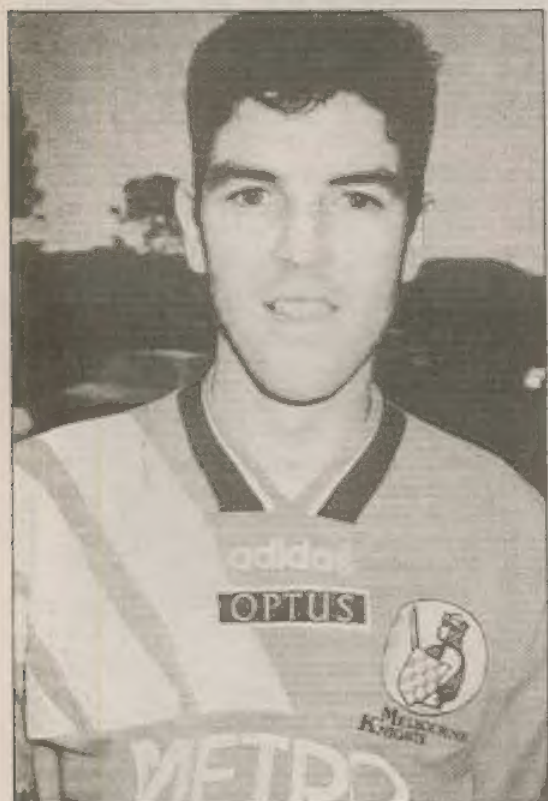
TIME: 6PM

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OLYMPIC GAMES QUALIFIERS



Joe Spiteri: Put away hat-trick in opening game.

Vanuatu swamped by awesome Australia

BY CHRIS LINES
OF AAP

Australia made a flying start to the Olympic qualifying tournament at Hindmarsh Stadium last Saturday night with a 9-1 demolition of Vanuatu.

Melbourne Knights striker Joe Spiteri led the Olyroos attack with a hat-trick, Mark Viduka and Gabriel Mendez scored two goals apiece and Danny Tiatto and substitute Norman Tome both got on the scoresheet.

However the biggest cheer of the night was reserved for the 66th minute when Vanuatu striker Etienne Mermer sparked scenes of wild celebrations with his side's only goal.

Australia's overseas players were all prominent, with Viduka of Croatia Zagreb, Gabriel Mendez of Admira Wacker and Craig Moore of Glasgow Rangers all having good games.

Vanuatu held Australia out for 28 minutes through a combination of good luck and good management, but then the floodgates opened.

Viduka unselfishly laid off a pass for Mendez to score, with Spiteri grabbing his first two minutes later.

Just before haltime, Viduka provided a

AUSTRALIA: Juric, Aloisi, Moore, Babic, Bilokapic (Tome 60), Lazanovski (Milicic 65), Tiatto (Cassery 73), Tsekenils (YC), Mendez, Viduka, Spiteri.

VANUATU: Mansale, Nicholas, Thompson, Yalan (Ben 70), Molivaerva, Obed, Sailas, Karlyp, Latur, Mermer, Kalo.

GOALS: Australia: Spiteri (30, 45, 65), Mendez (28, 47pen), Viduka (62, 83), Tiatto (51), Tome (72). Vanuatu: Mermer (66).

REFEREE: Shah (Fiji).

pinpoint cross for Spiteri to score his second and take Australia into the break with a comfortable 3-0 lead.

Just after half-time, an attempted cross was blocked by the hand of a Vanuatu defender, allowing Mendez to convert the penalty.

Four minutes later, Tiatto scored Australia's fifth with a powerful low drive through a nest of players. Viduka, the man who earned the name V-Bomber through his scoring exploits with Melbourne Knights, was forced to wait until the 62nd minute to score with a glancing header.

Just three minutes later Moore lobbed a cross to Viduka at the back post and he expertly placed it



Norman Tome: Came on as sub and scored.

in the path of his former Knights team-mate Spiteri who converted to bring up a hat-trick.

After Vanuatu's surprise goal, Australia reorganised with a batch of substitutions and two more goals - from substitute Norman Tome, whose weak shot rolled through the hands of the Vanuatu keeper, and another headed by Viduka.

Australian coach Eddie Thompson said he was upset with some tactical

problems during the first half but was more satisfied in the second.

"In the first half we missed a few chances, we missed three or four good opportunities and the lads started to get a bit anxious," Thomson said.

"They got a really good kick up the backside at half-time I can tell you."

"A lot of things, the corners, set pieces - I was not happy at all, I could see one or two tactical things we needed."

Fiji too good for Solomon Islands

Fiji striker Livali Dugucu scored a first half hat-trick and set up another goal last Saturday night as his side beat the Solomon Islands 4-0 in the opening match of the Olympic qualifying tournament.

Livali scored a hat-trick and set up a fourth goal for striking partner Manoa Masi as all the goals came in an 11-minute burst midway through the first half of the match at Hindmarsh Stadium.

The Fiji side, who were physically larger and stronger than their Solomon Islands opponents, could have scored at least two more goals but for some good 'keeping by Solomons custodian John Solodia.

The Solomons started promisingly but lost confidence as the Fiji side slammed in four quick goals.

The opening goal came in the 22nd minute, when Manoa crossed to Livali who managed to get his foot to the ball in front of the diving Solomons 'keeper.

Just one minute later the same combination was again successful with Livali slamming the ball into the net from more than 20 metres out.

In the 31st minute the two combined again with Livali scoring another spectacular goal with a powerful shot from the edge of the penalty area.

Two minutes later a booming defensive clearance led to another Fiji goal with Livali paying back his striking partner by laying the ball off to Manoa who slid it in for a fourth goal.

The Solomons played much better in the second half, keeping a clean sheet for the second 45 minutes while rarely appearing likely to narrow the deficit.

FIJI: Baledrokadroka, Leka, Esala Masi, Jope, Arif, Waisale, Manoa Masi, Livali, William, Waisea, Emosi. Subs - Sairusi, Pila, Arjun, Apolosi, Akula.

SOLOMON ISLANDS: Solodia, Surau (YC), Omokiro, Molea, Taka, Wabo, Suri, Seni, Beuka, Bobby, Rifasia. Subs - Toata, Farodo, Rukumana, Wasi, Mautoa.

GOALS: Fiji: Livali (22, 23, 31) Manoa Masi (33).

REFEREE: Eugene Brazzale (Australia).

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OLYMPIC GAMES QUALIFIERS

Craig Moore still wants to be Aussie success

BY CHRIS LINES
OF AAP

Olyroo and Glasgow Rangers star Craig Moore (pictured) said his commitments with the Scottish giants has not dimmed his ambitions to be an integral part of Australia's push for Olympic success.

The giant, central defender played in Australia's opening 9-1 win over Vanuatu last Saturday night.

Moore said his success at Rangers, where he regularly fills the right back position, has not diminished his desire for success as an Australian international.

He said Scotland's biggest club, where his contract expires at the end of the current season, had not put any obstacles in the path of his Olyroo and Soccerroo career.

"The club was very helpful with me and whether I want to come back and play in Olympic qualifiers or whatever is up to

me," Moore said.

"You always like to leave your club on good terms but with all the new rules, you need to be released for seven games each season and clubs accept you may have to go when your country calls.

"For me it's definitely important, and to come back and represent my country is a dream come true," he said.

He said his return for the Olympic tournament was important enabling him to get back into the slower Australian playing style. It also enables him to gain experience within the team unit as it prepares for an improvement on the fourth placing at the 1992 Barcelona Games.

"All the players are confident of getting through these qualifiers.

"The winning of an Olympic medal is always in the back of your mind but personally I like to take it one step at a time."



NZ looking to gain experience in tournament

The Oceania Olympic qualifying tournament would be viewed by New Zealand more as an opportunity to gain experience rather than a genuine opportunity to win, coach Bobby Clark said last week.

Clark said his team's preparation for the tournament had been limited, and said the opportunity to gather international experience for his team, with a view to creating future All White internationals, was the major priority of the tournament.

"It's totally different from Australia — they have been prepared to win the tournament, we are using it as experience, getting our players experienced for the All Whites," Clark said. "Realistically the one thing we know we can get out of it is the experience."

Despite the concentration on gaining experience, Clark said his team would still be aiming to win every game and said gaining victories would not be relegated as a priority. "I do not think we will ever do that," Clark said. "We are not here to make up the numbers, but it's a tremendous chance for the best under-23 players in New Zealand to play internationals." The coach also dismissed criticism of New Zealand's tactical formation which favours a flat back four rather than the sweeper system expected to be used by all other teams at the tournament.

Clark argued the flat back four was a legitimate tactic and one used with great success by Brazil, Italy and Sweden at the 1994 World Cup where those teams filled the top three positions.

"I don't think it matters what system you use, I don't think a system is ever going to win you a game," Clark said.

"Three of the top four teams of the World Cup used a flat zonal system, every country plays the game to which they are suited."

The New Zealand coach also bemoaned the money constraints that lead to a lack of international opportunities for his players, adding to the difficulties of combining disparate players into a cohesive system at short notice.

"It's not an easy task, but it's one we enjoy and I believe the team is coming together," he said.

Players in Pacific Islands need Aussie assistance

The Solomon Islands and Vanuatu have pleaded for increased coaching assistance from Australia if they are to become more competitive.

The two nations have joined Australia, New Zealand and Fiji in a tournament at Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide over the next couple of weeks to decide a berth in the 1996 Olympic tournament at Atlanta.

Solomon Islands coach Wilson Maelaia and Vanuatu coach Marco Herrominly both said that more frequent coaching and funding assistance from Australia and

the Oceania Federation was needed if the two nations were ever to bridge the yawning gap of standard that separates them from Australia.

"I think we need to get a little bit more help, get more frequent coaching clinics and have a chance to get out of the country as well," said Maelaia. The Vanuatu coach added, "The Federation have to organise something to help Vanuatu. They can do more. We need to have some people from here (Australia) to go and give coaching courses.

"We need more, we need to get someone from

overseas but we don't have the finance to get someone to our country," said Herrominly.

The two coaches said their players need to leave the comfort of their home nations and look to the Australian league as an opportunity to learn more and to broaden the horizons of their soccer careers.

"We don't send our players overseas," Maelaia said.

"If we have opportunities we will send our players out and we are hoping that the scouts will come around our way and see some of our players.

"We don't have as much competition as Australia and New Zealand have but we are looking for it, that is my plan."

Maelaia also suggested a scholarship program that would link his players to the A-League clubs as a method of improving skills and discipline.

Herrominly said there was an untapped vein of playing talent in the Pacific, but said Australian clubs have to make the first move if they are to woo the fast and talented players.

"They are interested in playing here but they're scared to ask people,"

Herrominly said.

"I have got some really good players but they have to learn, they have the discipline but they have to learn more."

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Ten teams for NSL to raise standards

Dear Sir,
I congratulate Dr Bayliss on his Promotion and Relegation article in the December 26 edition of ABSW and for having the guts to speak out on sensitive issues.

However, I disagree with him in only one conclusion — there should be 10 teams in the National League, not 12.

To make comparisons with the Italy's and England's of this world in league sizes is not meaningful. Quite simply, those countries have the population centres to support those numbers and Australia doesn't. (And this is ignoring the fact that they don't have the competition from other sports like here in Australia).

The advantages of a 10 team league would be enormous, I believe, and would establish the National League as a force in Australian sport. These are:

- ☐ more elite players per club
- ☐ better playing standard
- ☐ more Government and SA funding per club
- ☐ more media attention
- ☐ better marketing and promotion
- ☐ faster path to full professionalism
- ☐ less scope for ethnicity
- ☐ broader community involvement
- ☐ better stadia and spectator facilities
- ☐ more overseas stars attracted home
- ☐ bigger crowds,

all of which work together over time to spiral the game to new heights.

This would mean, of course, that the difficult exercise of changing the NSL constitution would have to be revisited. It would include the difficult exercise to convince the ethnic clubs that a National League franchise is bigger than a single club or a single ethnic sub-group and that they could have a share of the bigger action rather than keep the game within their ethnic boundaries to massage their collective ethnic egos.

Incidentally, to determine if a club is "ethnic" or not, might I suggest that the clubs ask the community at large — those masses of people out there who, unless they are avid fans, will never identify with a club that is perceived to represent an ethnic minority.

Full marks to:

- ☐ Dr Bayliss for courage and commonsense.
- ☐ David Hill, David Woolley and their team at Soccer Australia for great work,
- ☐ ABSW for open, honest and informative reporting.

R. Shepherd,
Taringa, Qld.

Is Bayliss a fictitious character?

Dear Sir,
Is Peter Bayliss for real?

Once every two or three weeks an article or letter appears that either states the obvious (in a 33 game season it has one team playing 17 home games, while another plays 16).

This is a little unfair, or is utter claptrap (clubs should adopt the American attitude. eg. South Melbourne should be called the Melbourne Blues, even though the blues is not their nickname and they play in South Melbourne).

His last letter tells us that the name Fairfield is dull, is ranked 459th (no prestige), and that few people know where it is. I wonder if he can tell us where UTS is?

Also he tells us that there are teams named after Lord Melbourne.

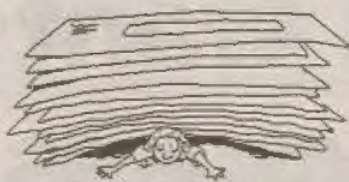
Dear Mr Bayliss, please get hold of a map of Australia and you will notice that the current champions (Melbourne Knights), and the best supported club (South Melbourne), have both been named after a city and not after an English gentleman.

I can't help but think that ABSW has been playing a joke on us by inventing a fictitious character, Dr Peter Bayliss, and all will be revealed to us on April Fool's day.

(Sir Dr) George Kaye (OAM, OBE, etc.)
Malvern, Vic.

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

The Editor,
AUSTRALIAN &
BRITISH SOCCER
WEEKLY
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BROADWAY
NSW 2007
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Quality players soccer's strength

Dear Sir,

The comparatively recent development which has seen the emergence of a significant and growing number of real quality local players is in my opinion the best thing ever to happen to Australian Soccer.

The lifeblood of all sports are the players and the depth of quality amongst those players are its strength.

For far too long Australia has had no shortage of recreational players but until now only an occasional few developed into quality players of the likes of Marston, Watkiss, Baartz, Davidson.

Now when all the best players are available we have the basis of a truly World Class Socceroo team which has depth as well as firepower upfront.

It is most encouraging to know that players like Bosnich, Okon, Viduka amongst others are a class above the likes of Wade, Arnold, Farina etc in their heyday. Barring unforeseen circumstances the future prospects of the Socceroos and the Olyroos are bright for both Atlanta '96 and France '98.

The job ahead for SA is to capitalise on the situation at every opportunity. Playing more internationals in Australia is most desirable but if past indications are any guide the likes of Sweden and Japan are unlikely to inspire the demanding Aussie soccer fans.

As well coverage of such



Paul Okon: Class above previous Socceroos.

matches by the mainstream media is likely to be poor which is unlikely to raise the awareness of the Socceroos amongst the majority of the Australian people who have little or no interest in soccer.

Next May (96) the England team is proposing to tour South Africa in preparation for Euro '96. I am absolutely certain that the Socceroos would be a much better sparring partner for the England team's preparations than the South Africans.

As well Australia would be a much safer environment for the English visitors with superior facilities.

There is no doubt that an

England v Australia series would create widespread interest across Australia with wide mainstream media coverage.

Sponsors would also be attracted to an England, Australia series of matches and equally as important the profile and awareness of the Socceroos would rise amongst the non soccer minded Australian public.

What more is there to say other than I hope the very persuasive David Hill has enough time before his next sojourn to consider my proposal and try to make it happen.

R. Meior,
Bondi, NSW.

Give 'Croatian Corner' the chop

Dear Sir,

After reading John Viskovich's comments in his Croatian Corner (ABSW 26.12.95) I felt inclined to write and express my feelings towards those comments.

First of all what makes him think that Croatia will whip Greece in the qualifiers for France '98.

If a club team (Panathinaikos) can beat yours then who is to say that they can't defeat the national team after all they're not unbeatable are they?

They beat Italy when Italy didn't have their full team and now they think they should be mentioned in the same breath as Brazil, Germany, Argentina, Holland etc.

Although Greece did not qualify for Euro '96 it does not mean that they are a team that can be beaten easily.

I must also comment on the bad press South Melbourne has been receiving by the Croatian Community who are saying that South are racist when they chant "hellas hellas" etc and by having a Greek flag on their jerseys, well maybe so, but at least they do not draft players simply because they are Greek.

One last thing, please get rid of the Croatian Corner as it is racist and biased and only gives enjoyment to certain readers and is of no use to others.

Spiros Metallinos,
Aspendale, Vic.

Plea to Wolves - get act together

Dear Sir,
I am a Wollongong City supporter who is frustrated and disappointed with the team's results but most of all with the Clubs Directors.

I can appreciate the club is having financial difficulties and it is great if somebody like Harry Michaels is prepared to financially support the Club, but I ask what has he got to gain, what's in it for him?

The second question I ask is, if we are at the bottom of the table, not getting the required results and obviously have on field problems, why would the club hire, at a performance crisis point, an inexperienced coach like Nick Theodorakopoulos, who is barely qualified from what I hear.

There are quite a few qualified and experienced coaches in the Illawarra area so why not give one of them a go or at least until the end of the season allow assistant first grade coach Leon Gardikiotis who has European playing experience and is a qualified coach to take over.

Or is it who you know and who pays the most dollars buys the coaching job?

It is becoming obvious the Club is not looking for a coach but a sponsor.

Wolves get your act together before you lose the people that pay their money at the gates, your fans!

Ian Wigham,
Port Kembla, NSW.

Anger over club name misplaced

Dear Sir,
The recent public spat between SA chairman David Hill and the Marconi officials, over the name of the club, if nothing, only highlighted just how much feeling is attached to the name of particular clubs.

Club Marconi chairman Tony Baroni pointed out that the club had over 16,000 social members from 110 different backgrounds. Baroni used this point to illustrate that "these people don't care about names."

If so, then I guess Mr Baroni was only speaking on behalf of the administrators when he expressed "anger and disappointment" at Mr Hill's remarks.

It may be understandable that such a champion club that has contributed so much to Australian soccer may feel passionately about the tradition that has been created.

I hope these traditions are not going to stand in the way of a new tradition that Australian soccer so desperately needs to reach its full potential.

Mr Baroni's comments "we are prepared to go any lengths necessary to fight such a move" are not encouraging.

The fact is that names mean everything in Australian soccer. Marconi is the last club in the National League who are holding on to a name that is easily equated with a particular ethnic group, in this case, Italian.

The sooner club officials appreciate just how far away from ethnic based clubs Australian soccer has to move, the better.

Every community has their Bruce Ruxton's. Mr Baroni should stop reacting with such "anger" as if he is being attacked by prejudice Australians.

Mr Baroni should stop pandering to the Ruxton's within his own club who are too proud to worry about what's good for Australian soccer.

M. Ljubic,
Maroochydore, Qld.



Bigger goals Welcome!

Dear Sir,
What welcome news from Zurich that goals are to be enlarged at last. About time too! The growth in size of goalkeepers is just one of many reasons why it's become harder to score goals.

But, what a chance for Australian football to make a name for itself. The formal decision will be taken in March — followed by a 'Test Period'. The Australian State Leagues kick-off in March.

Why not hold it back a bit until after the new goal-sizes have been approved and then be the first league in the world to actually put them into practice!

Australian football already has the fastest-goal on record.

Why not let an Aussie be the first player in the world to score into the new-size goal?

Henry Wiggier,
Forestville, NSW.

Olympic tournament best kept secret

Dear Sir,
I take this opportunity to wish everyone connected with our wonderful sport a very happy and successful 1996.

This morning a very interesting snippet appeared in the paper about Brisbane Strikers.

The writer described the Strikers as the best kept sporting secret in Brisbane and urged sports fans to get to a game when the strikers next play at home.

I felt a sense of pride on this New Year's day.

Proud that at long last a writer who was brought up on another code of football gave the strikers a nod of approval. Congratulations to the marketing staff, players and all the other hard working people who are helping to get the Strikers and our code of football into the main stream of sport in Queensland.



Unfortunately, the same can not be said about the marketing of the forthcoming Olympic qualifying games which are about to take place in Adelaide.

I am a passionate football fan and I make a point of keeping myself well informed but unless I am mistaken I have not seen or read any promotional materials about the tournament.

If the objective is to keep the tournament a secret then it is an outstanding success because I don't even know the dates of the qualifiers.

In fact if I did not know better, I could easily have come to the conclusion that our own Olyroos were not taking part.

I am certain that a lot of people don't know that the Olympic qualifying tournament is taking place during the break in the Ericsson Cup.

Whilst I acknowledge the good and positive work that Soccer Australia is doing for Football in Australia, it is important that we are not starved of publicity about our code because we have been subjected to the mushroom treatment for years by the previous regime.

Keep up the good work Soccer Australia but please don't forget our basic need to know what's happening, where it's happening and when it's happening.

Serge Armansin,
Everton Hills, Qld.

Early bird catches the worm

Dear Sir,
On the first Sunday in the new year I was listening to ABC Radio's sports commentator, David Lord, for over 10 minutes about the Sri Lanka cricketer throwing the ball.

I rang him immediately after the sport segment asking him about the soccer results.

To my surprise he told me he had a 10 minutes report on soccer, including George Weah, English and Australian results etc. early in the morning.

What time was that? I asked.

The reply was 5.45am!
Robert Forrei,
Roseville, NSW.

Chanting to raise players' adrenalin

Dear Sir,
I am a 14-year-old Melbourne Knights supporter who resents the fact that every time anyone has a go at an ethnic group, the insults are always thrown in the direction of either my club or Sydney United.

In response to the humiliating letter written by Dave Hunt of NSW (ABSW 9/1), to my knowledge, supporters continue to shout 'Croatia, Croatia' at soccer games not to annoy critics, but to raise the adrenalin of players and the crowd, and could it possibly be because they

support Croatian teams?

Though both teams don't pose the word Croatia in their names, it doesn't mean that they aren't, or weren't Croatian teams.

If you'd of tried a little harder to remember, perhaps you would have come to find that the Melbourne Knights were once Melbourne Croatia, before they were made to change their name.

Supporters of Croatian teams aren't the only ones who chant. Ever heard 'Hellas, Hellas', or how about 'Italia' I'd like to ask Dave Hunt, what do you suppose

we chant? 'Go Australia'? Give us a break!

As for the Melbourne Knights' ground being dull, have you ever been to the ground, or are you amongst the many who criticise what they do not know.

With so little money given to soccer clubs, without the help of the government, how do you expect teams to have stands as grand as those of other football codes?

I'd like to close with this. When I go to the soccer every week, as I look around me, I find crowds who have for 90

minutes a week, forgotten all troubles to view a truly great spectacle. It is people like Dave Hunt who are giving Australian soccer a bad name.

Erasing the ethnicity from soccer is a bad mistake. Face it, you can't forget that Australia is a continent of many races, many of whom started what is the present Ericsson Cup league, so don't try to.

Don't deny Australia soccer it's ethnicity, for if you do, then you shall truly lose supporters.

Kaja Babic,
Deer Park, Vic.

Three teams for Sydney justified

Dear Sir,
Although I agree with the bulk of the opinions expressed by Dr Bayliss in the December 26 edition of the ABSW, I cannot see why Sydney isn't capable of supporting three National League teams in future seasons.

Mr Bayliss illustrated well the problems in having two powerful clubs established in the backwater suburb of

Fairfield in Sydney's south west.

Nevertheless I feel these problems could be overcome without any more Sydney clubs being relegated.

In my opinion the answers lie with regionalising the Sydney clubs.

Marconi could adapt themselves into becoming the South Sydney Stallions with Marconi stadium as their home ground. Sydney

United could become West Sydney United.

The tricky part of the West Sydney idea is that a change of venue would probably be needed and the question of what would become of the Edensor Park facilities is something I do not claim to have the answers for.

UTS Olympic must also move or if need be pushed along the path of

regionalisation. I believe changes of this type must occur if the soccer supporters living in Sydney, both "avid" and "casual", are to be attracted to the grandstands.

In demographic terms if Sydney had a team from the West, South and the North, for example the North Sydney Dolphins, each of these teams would represent a geographic area containing a population in excess of Newcastle and Canberra combined.

If we use Mr Bayliss' system of population ratio as a basis for determining the number of teams a city can sustain in the National League both Newcastle and Canberra should only be able to sustain .2 clubs each.

In my opinion Sydney must have three teams in the National League. Certainly no more or less.

I agree wholeheartedly with Mr Bayliss' observations about the size of the National League.

Twelve teams is the right number and if a team must be dropped to avoid a thirteen team league in the

1996/97 season then soccer Australia should be looking at either Morwell or one of the Adelaide clubs.

The Latrobe Valley simply doesn't have the population base to continue growing with the National League.

Geelong has proven in the other codes it can support champion clubs and must be a serious contender to replace Morwell as Victoria's third franchise.

Adelaide has two clubs sharing Hindmarsh Stadium and attracting average crowds.

If combined to form one powerful and well supported franchise we would be back to a competitive 12 team National League.

Nobody can deny the quality of South Melbourne's support base so little needs to change there.

Maybe the Melbourne Knights should be looking towards a more regionalised support base.

Brunswick Juventus x Melbourne Knights = Brunswick Knights = a North Melbourne team.

M. Ljubic,
Maroochydore, Qld.

Marconi has low crowds

Dear Sir,
What a waste of space, was the letter by Dr Peter Bayliss. The name Marconi Fairfield fires as much imagination into the mainstream. Sydney sport fans as scrap paper, and the alternative name he came up with "Sydney Marconi" was patronisingly ridiculous.

He was right in the first place, drop them if they don't come to the party. Apparently there are quite a few clubs applying for licenses to join the National League and bet your life, those worth their salt will be community based teams. (Go Sydney Cosmos).

Fred Leggett has strange ways of defending Marconi. You say you hear English (whichever accent) spoken in the stand. Surprise, surprise, this is an English speaking nation.

And you hear Italian spoken, well it is an Italian club, albeit based in Sydney, right from the board of directors down to the ground staff.

How can you say it is a successful club, that has only averaged a crowd of about 3,500 for the last 30 years.

I am sure David Hill cringes at this, while AFL, Rugby and Cricket bosses laugh.
P.V. Gearing,
Moonee Ponds, Vic.

STAR PROFILE Ante Moric

AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC
GAMES QUALIFIERS



Date of Birth: April 19th, 1974
Birthplace: Sydney
Previous Clubs: Sydney Croatia Juniors, AIS
Current Club: Sydney United
Position: Attacking left midfielder or central midfielder
Nickname: "Mozza"
Marital Status: Single
Occupation: Fulltime player.
Best Aspect Of Your Game: Getting forward to start attacks and crosses
Most Difficult Opponent: David Barrett
Most Impressive Local Player: Manis Lamond
Favourite Overseas Player: Zvonimir Boban
Favourite Overseas Club: Hajduk Split
Euro '96 Tip: Croatia
What Qualities Make a Good Coach: Discipline, communication with players and ability to always find attacking situations in games
Honours: Under 13s, 14s, 15s, 17s NSW, senior NSW, A.I.S. 1993 Youth squad and current Olympic Games squad, & National squad
Ambitions For 1996: Atlanta Games, win League with Sydney United and to just keep performing well for my coaches
Ambitions After Retiring: To be a happily wedded man with a lovely family and hopefully put something back into Soccer
Most Memorable Moment: Representing Australia in the first game in the World Youth Cup against Colombia in Sydney in 1993
Best Goal You've Seen Scored: Maradona's first goal against England in the 1986 World Cup in Mexico
Favourite Food: Chicken Schnitzel
Favourite Drink: Iso Sport
Car You Drive: Mazda MX5
Favourite TV Show: SBS-TV's World Soccer
TV Show You Refuse To Watch: Prisoner
Favourite Movie: 'Seven'
Favourite Actor/Actress: Densel Washington, Terry Hatcher
Preferred Music: Top 40
Least Preferred Music: Heavy Metal
Favourite Comedian: Eddie Murphy
Pet Hates: People with bad breath
Special Advice To Young Players: Listen to your coaches and be disciplined and motivated in what you do
Person You Would Most Like To Meet: Julio Iglesias

By JOHN ECONOMOS

Culina maintains innocence after fine

BY JUSTIN BRASIER
OF AAP

Embattled Sydney United coach Branko Culina said he would risk another hefty fine if it meant having to help a player who had suffered a "horrific" injury on the field.

The controversial coach was fined a record \$5,000 by Soccer Australia's national league tribunal last week in one of five fines dealt out over last month's incident-marred match against Marconi.

Culina and four players were found guilty of bringing the game into disrepute and fined a total \$10,000 after the 1-1 draw between the two teams at Marconi Stadium on December 2.

Soccer Australia held an inquiry into a brawl after United goalkeeper John Perosh suffered a head injury as he dived in for the ball at the feet of Marconi's Francis Awaritefe with his own defender, Velimir Kupresak rushing in at the



same time.

Culina was booked when he ran on to the field amid the fracas to check on the condition of his goalkeeper.

"I'm disappointed and surprised at the severity of the fine," Culina told AAP last week.

"I really don't believe I did anything wrong."

"I applaud Soccer Australia for the advances it has made in the game but if this is the worst thing an official can do, that is to attend to a horrifically injured player on the field, then I'll do it again next week."

Awaritefe was fined



David Zdrilic:
Fined \$1,000.

\$2,000, while \$1,500 penalties were imposed on Marconi's Jean Paul De Marigny and United's Tony Popovic.

United striker David Zdrilic was dealt a \$1,000 fine.

The tribunal, also placed both clubs on a good behaviour bond of \$10,000 for the rest of the season.

Soccer Australia media spokesman Scott Crebbin

said Culina's fine was a record amount for an on-field incident.

Crebbin said alleged racial remarks did not form part of the inquiry.

SA chairman David Hill said the penalties resulting from the match were justifiably severe.

"Soccer is a family sport and we are determined to take our game further into the mainstream of Australian sport," Hill said in a statement.

Soccer Australia would not tolerate misconduct in the future whether by players, officials or spectators.

United president Ivan Simic said the fine wasn't a club responsibility and Culina would have to pay the \$5,000.

"On my wages, it will take me three months to pay it," Culina said.

Although Culina said he would accept the "umpire's decision", he didn't believe it was fair that he had been punished for being a controversial figure.

"I live by the sword and



die by sword. Maybe my profile here has done me more damage than good," he said.

Hill also announced that a review of disciplinary procedures would be conducted by league general manager Peter Russell.

Crebbin said the review would include considering possible ways to streamline and speed up the hearing process and whether hearings should be opened to the media in future, as they are in AFL and rugby league.

The hearing was delayed by a backlog of tribunal matters.

BRISBANE STRIKERS

Good news on Sean Cranney

BY GLENN DAVIS

Brisbane Strikers received some heartening news in the New Year that Sean Cranney's groin injury isn't as serious as first thought.

The newly capped Socceroo midfielder was expected to be sidelined for three months with a serious groin injury which has ruled him out of the Olympic qualifying series in Adelaide

this month.

Cranney had a large tear at the back of his groin tendon repaired when he underwent recent surgery and doctors believe the recovery time could be halved.

Strikers' doctor John McNee believes Cranney could be back training in four weeks and could possibly be returning to the playing field in six weeks.

Coach Bruce Stowell was relieved to hear about



Cranney's injury and also that of stalwart Alan Hunter who was stretchered from the field in their recent 1-0 win over Morwell Falcons.

Hunter suffered a minor fracture to his elbow and

sprained a knee but is expected to make a full recovery by the time the Ericsson Cup competition resumes next month.

"The break has come at a good time for us and it's good news about Sean and Alan," Stowell said.

"Apart from those two there are a few other players carrying knocks so I might test a few of them."

"Hopefully by the time we get back to the league matches I'll be able to choose

from close to a full squad."

The recent spate of injuries will provide Stowell with a golden opportunity to blood some of the talented youngsters currently playing for the Queensland Academy side during the Johnnie Walker Cup series.

Player such as Reece Tollenare and Chay Hews may now get the chance to show Stowell whether they are up to National League standard in the near future.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

Dobson appointed coach

BY JUSTIN BRASIER
OF AAP

New Melbourne Knights coach Ian Dobson has promised to bring a hard work ethic to the reigning National League champions after his appointment last Thursday.

Dobson, a former Knights player and coach of state league club Altona Gate for the past three years, replaces Mirko Bazic.

Bazic will return home to Croatia to continue his coaching career.

The 38-year-old said he would examine the Knights' entire squad when he takes over duties today.

Knight's general manager Mirko Cugura said Dobson

would coach the club for the remainder of this season and next season but would first be aided by Bazic in the next couple of weeks.

Bazic guided the Knights to their maiden National League championship last season but will bow out after the round 18 Ericsson Cup match against Sydney United at the Melbourne Croatia Sports Centre on February 4.

"Mirko has certainly achieved a great deal but I won't try to follow in his footsteps," Dobson warned. "I've got my own style and I'll work at that."

"I'm a hard working coach and I do a lot of my work during the week. On match days it becomes a tactical situation."

Dobson emigrated from



England to Australia in 1982 after playing for Hull City and Hereford United in the English leagues.

He is a veteran of more than 100 NSL games, playing for Melbourne Knights in the mid 1980s and then having five seasons for Preston before he coached that club for a brief period as it unsuccessfully tried to avoid relegation in 1992-93.

Dobson is familiar with

Melbourne Knights personnel and has played alongside and against current players Andrew Marth, John Markovski and Fausto De Amicis.

"At the Knights I'm quite lucky that I've got such a group of quality players to work with," Dobson said.

One glaring statistic Dobson will be attempting to correct is the Knights' low scoring feats so far this season.

Last year with ace shooter Mark Viduka at the sharp end, the Knights were breaking all sorts of scoring records but this season the club has scored only 18 goals



Ian Dobson:
Taking over from Mirko bazic.

from 17 matches.

"There is a number of things I want to work at but obviously we have to recapture our consistency in scoring goals," he said. "The club is missing Viduka and we need to have Markovski firing."

Moore on steep learning curve

BY JAI McDERMOTT

Talented Newcastle youngster Glenn Moore is adapting quickly to life in the Ericsson Cup.

The 18-year-old defender has worked hard on his game in the past 12 months and has been rewarded with a regular place in the Breakers' first team line up.

Moore is no stranger to football at the top level. He was a member of the Breakers youth squad in 1993/94 and captained the Northern New South Wales Lions in last season's National Youth League.

The Breakers return this summer to the elite company of the Ericsson Cup has given him a chance to step up to the senior ranks.

"It's a pretty good opportunity to get established in the National League. Getting experience at a young age will be a big advantage in the future."

Newcastle coach John Kosmina has put a lot of faith in Moore's abilities. Despite the short term signing of experienced defender and former Breakers captain Darren Stewart he has retained Moore at sweeper, pushing Stewart further forward into a midfield role.

"It seems like a lot of responsibility but I've got plenty of help from the players in front of me. Blokes like Hicky (Steve Hickman) and Robbo (Andy Roberts) obviously help me by doing their jobs so well," Moore explains.



As an integral part of Kosmina's young brigade Moore is enjoying a sharp learning curve, pitting his skills against the best footballers in the country each week.

"I learnt a lot in terms of positioning and reading the game when I was under Ken Kaiser last year with the Lions. Kossie's now giving me the chance to put all that into practice," Moore says.

With the Ericsson Cup nearing its half way stage, Moore has made six starts and a number of appearances from the bench. Now that he's seen them all, who does he rate as the best he's met?

"Sydney United are the most organised and precise of the teams, and their captain Tony Popovich is my pick as the best single player," Moore goes further to say that "all the teams are tough, particularly away from home where the atmosphere can get a bit intimidating."

Soccer isn't the only thing occupying Moore's time though. He is gearing up for his second year of a Computer science degree at Newcastle University.

"My studies are pretty difficult. I'm streamlining them a bit this year because the time demands are fairly hectic. Still, I enjoy uni most of the time."

For now though Moore is concentrating solely on football. He recently spent a week in camp with National coaches Eddie Thomson and Les Scheinflug as part of a training squad for the World Youth Cup in 1997.

"They pick another training squad of 18 around March. I am just aiming to play well for the Breakers and hopefully I'll be on that list."

Breakers fans are hoping that Moore continues his good form at the heart of the Breakers defence. As Kosmina's side struggles against the strength of the Ericsson Cup field, it is certain that the youngster will learn plenty and should develop into a fine product.

WOLLONGONG

Fitness levels main aim of new coach

BY PHIL MURPHY

New Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos was being polite when he said his players "lacked mobility."

Everyone else who has seen them play this season said the players weren't fit.

Theodorakopoulos wasted no time working on that aspect.

He held his first training session last Monday night and the players agreed it was the toughest they had gone through all season.

They were back out on the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and those not in the squad for Sunday's Johnnie Walker Cup tie against Olympic were training Sunday morning.

Theodorakopoulos aims to have his players a lot more mobile, even fitter, by the time they play their next Ericsson Cup game against Marconi.

He said he is focused on that game.

"Obviously it would be nice to win the cup games but our aim is to get away from the bottom of the league," Theodorakopoulos said.

"I have been very pleased with the reaction of the players.

"They have worked hard in my first week and I am confident it will pay off.

"The defence was obviously what needed most attention.

"I have signed Ian Pollari from Marconi as a marker and at least one more defender will come to the club.

"If we can get the defence organised the rest will fall into place.

"Enthusiasm and hard work is there for everyone to see."

Theodorakopoulos had hoped to sign midfielder Angie Goutsoulis and defender George Slifkas but negotiations with both players broke down.

A number of other players have been linked with the Wolves and the coach is hoping for another signing this week.

He said there was still a slight chance of signing former Socceroo striker Alistair Edwards, who recently returned from overseas.

Edwards had been targeted by Olympic but they were baulking at his demands.

One established player looking forward to the Ericsson Cup starting again is young defender Billy Gjakovski.

The new coach believes the youngster has a very bright future and will give him every encouragement.

Gjakovski is a leading contender for the next Australian youth squad but could find himself playing fullback, rather than sweeper, for his club.

Meantime, captain Matt Horsley is confident the new coach will help change things around.

Horsley said the training had certainly stepped up a notch when Mick O'Shea was in charge for a week in a caretaker capacity.

"The first couple of sessions under Nick were very hard but there were no complaints," Horsley said.

"We all know the team's fitness levels were down on what they should have been.

"The boys have no doubt they will be so much more competitive when they go in against Marconi.

"I am sure the second half of the season will be a different story.

"Marconi are up the top of the league, so what better way to re-start the Ericsson Cup programme than to get a result at Marconi Stadium."



Billy Gjakovski: Leading Young Socceroo contender.

ADELAIDE CITY

Talladira on-loan to the Falcons

BY PETER KRUPKA

While Morwell left Adelaide without a win in last week's Johnnie Walker Cup match, it did not leave the state empty handed snaring Adelaide City midfielder Carlo Talladira on loan for the rest of the season.

Talladira told City coach John Perin he was unhappy about not getting a place in the regular starting line-up and had approached Falcons coach Harry Bingham to see if he could play with the Latrobe Valley club.

"It's a club policy that we don't stand in anyone's way who's not happy there," Perin said.

Talladira played all 24 games for the Zebras under coach Zoran Matic last season but has been unable to crack a regular spot in the side this year after having pre-season surgery.

"I couldn't tell him when he was going to play like I can't tell anyone when they are going to play," Perin said.

Bingham was delighted to snare Talladira, 24, who he said would be rushed straight into his injury-ridden squad.

Morwell came to Adelaide hopeful of recruiting Jamie Perin but the 21-year-old



midfielder opted to stay in Adelaide to finish his final year of study.

Jamie admitted the pressure of being the coach's son had influenced his decision to think about leaving the club he had grown up supporting.

His father echoed the sentiment and added with Talladira leaving the side, it would appear suspicious to the fans who had felt the coach was looking after his son.

"It's going to be more difficult now because there's going to be the situation where people think he got rid of Carlo to play his son but that's just rubbish," Perin said.

The coach said he treated his son, who has started in 12 league matches this year, harder than any other player in the squad.

"I take the easy way out



Happier Days: Carlo Talladira with Robbie Zabica and Goran Lozanovski after Adelaide's 1994 Grand Final win.

with him. He's always the first player I take off and that's wrong because he hasn't been the player I should have taken off in

certain games," he said.

"I play politics to show I'm not favouring him and that's absolutely wrong.

"Anyway, I don't expect a

21-year-old to come and make the game for me. What he's done on the pitch I've felt has been as good as what anyone else has done."

WEST ADELAIDE

World first for Adelaide

BY PETER KRUPKA

West Adelaide's South American-born midfielder Ayrton Andrioli took centre-stage during pre-match festivities before the Ericsson Cup local derby earlier this month.

Andrioli became an Australian citizen in a ceremony before Adelaide held in front of fans from both clubs. Andrioli did not play in the game won 2-0 by West.

Adelaide City, who played host for the match, seized the chance to hold the world's first on-pitch citizenship ceremony offered to them by the Department of Immigration.

Andrioli, 30, moved to Adelaide in May 1994 to get married to his Australian girlfriend, now wife, Michelle.

Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs Nick Bolkus — who is also West Adelaide's number one ticket holder — conducted the ceremony



in front of the 10,000 fans.

The ceremony was the prelude to the nation's first Australian Citizenship Week which will be held from January 26 to February 3.

The department was expecting about 125,000 people to apply for citizenship this year.

Disgruntled West Adelaide player George Slifkas was set to join a Victorian club with Soccer Australia's Players' Compensation tribunal ready to hand down a decision on his fee.

Slifkas has already left Adelaide and since his return to Melbourne

has been linked to a number of clubs including Melbourne Knights, Morwell Falcons and Victorian Premier League side Bulleen.

The former Olyroo has also trained with Brisbane Strikers but it was understood Morwell have been the latest club interested in his services.

Slifkas has had an unhappy end to his stint with the Sharks the club he joined from Heidelberg for \$20,000 in 1993.

Sharks coach Raul Blanco did not let his charges rest after their derby win over Adelaide City.

West Adelaide provided the opposition for Eddie Thomson's Olyroo side in a friendly two nights later.

The result was not so good for the Sharks — downed 4-0 by the Olyroos who were preparing for Olympic qualifying tournament in Adelaide which started last week.



George Slifkas: Has left Adelaide but still without a club.

Johnnie Walker Cup

ROUND 1 - 1ST LEG

Marconi struggle at home

**MARCONI
FAIRFIELD 1
SYDNEY
UNITED 1**

BY ADRIAN WARREN
THROUGH AAP

Sydney United overcame the absence of seven first team regulars to earn a deserved 1-1 draw with local rival Marconi Fairfield in their Johnnie Walker Cup first round first leg soccer tie at Marconi Stadium last Sunday.

The vastly undermanned Crows created as many good chances as a near full strength Stallions lineup and were good value for their draw.

United entered the match without four Olyroos, striker Ante Milicic and defenders Mark Babic, Paul Bilokapic and Ante Moric.

The Crows were also missing goalkeeper John Perosh, striker Jimmy Patikas and defender Tony Popovic who is currently trialling with English club Leeds United.

Additionally, striker Manis Lamod missed the second half with a hamstring injury and will not be fit for the second leg and central defenders Mark Rudan and Richard Plesa finished the match with ankle injuries.

Both sides carved out several chances, but were denied by fine goalkeeping from Marconi veteran Bob Catlin and Crows' youngster Andrew Crews.

It was an entertaining encounter with none of the nastiness which marred last month's match between the two teams which resulted in several players and Crows' coach Branko Culina fined.

In the 13th minute, Marconi striker Andrew Harper headed against the post from close range and

SCORERS: Marconi:
Maloney (38)
Sydney United:
S. Babic (24)

YELLOW CARDS:
Sydney United: Zdrilic:
(63), Rudan (80)

CROWD: 5,012

REFEREE: J. Fraser

Lamond also came close just a few seconds later.

Crows striker Sean Babic opened the scoring after 24 minutes when he was released by midfielder Robert Markovac and coolly chipped the ball past Catlin.

Marconi equalised 14 minutes later through man-of-the-match Brad Maloney who volleyed home a cross from fellow midfielder Eric Hristodoulou after the Crows failed to clear a corner.

Catlin beat away shots

from Markovac either side of the break and denied midfielders Aytec Genc and Robert Enes in quick succession in the 56th minute.

His Crows' counterpart Crews handled the high ball well and denied Maloney on three occasions, including twice in four minutes as Marconi pressed around the hour mark. United soaked up the pressure and almost stole the match in the final quarter, when Genc fired over from close range and Catlin pushed away a chip from lively substitute Jim Aschner.

"I'm delighted. We had seven players missing and when you look at the chances we created we probably should have won in a canter," said Culina.

"If we had had a bit more composure in front of goal, we could have won quite easily but I take nothing away from Marconi - they are a very good side."

Marconi coach Manfred Schaefer complimented the depleted Crows on their performance and vowed his side would perform much better in the second leg.

"In the first half we only woke up after their goal and we were a lot more competitive in the second half," said Schaefer.

"We need to play a lot better to get more out of the second leg and I'm still confident we can get something."

"We fell down in midfield and defence tonight, there were too many gaps and they took advantage."

MARCONI: Catlin, Van Egmond, DeMarigny, Stanton (Souris 78), Bingley, Harper, Hristodoulou (Awaritefe (HT), Maloney, Renaud, Longo, Zoric.

SYDNEY UNITED: Crews, Kupresak, Enes (Jurlij 78), Genc, Markovac, Rudan, Zdrilic, Lamond (Aschner 46), Plesa, C. Gibson, S. Babic (Vrkic 88).



Andrew Crews: Denied Marconi on his debut for United.

Zebras scrape narrow win in dour match

**ADELAIDE
CITY 1
MORWELL
FALCONS 0**

BY PETER KRUPKA

Adelaide City veteran Joe Mullen was called off the bench to score a late winner against Morwell Falcons in a first round match in the Johnnie Walker cup competition at Hindmarsh Stadium last Wednesday.

A right foot volley from the top of the penalty box by the 300-game utility three minutes from fulltime sealed a 1-0 win for the home side, which travels to Victoria for the second leg on January 20.

Mullen hit the winner after a brilliant cross from fellow substitute Angelo Costanzo found the boot of Dino Mennillo, who laid the ball off for Mullen.

The move was easily the best in a match best remembered for inept finishing and poor skill from both sides.

The visitors were creative in the first half with Australian striker Warren Spink proving a handful for the experienced City

SCORER: Mullen (87)

YELLOW CARDS:
Adelaide: Brazzale (17)
Morwell: Todorovski (30),
Geri (35), Miller (48),
Bothwell (68)

CROWD: 1,637

REFEREE: W. Dade

defence.

Spink missed a chance to put Morwell ahead before the break when City 'keeper Jason Petkovic failed to grab a corner kick which

floated across the goal area but the forward could not put any power into his shot which deflected out of play off a Zebra defender.

Earlier Spink power-drove a 30-metre free kick goalward to force a spectacular diving save from the Zebra custodian.

After the break Spink, like his opposite number Damian Mori, was rarely sighted.

Brian Bothwell made the most of City's loose marking to run through the midfield and past two opponents before he belted a left foot shot inches wide of the far post.

City's best chance of the first period fell to youngster Kosta Salapasisidis, who ran on to a brilliant pass from Mori, but a strong challenge from John Waddell blocked the teenager's strike.

Former West Adelaide player Mark Brazzale made a bright debut for the Zebras despite being cautioned by referee Wayne Dade before he was substituted.

ADELAIDE CITY: Petkovic, Nedeljkovic (Hassell 46), Marino, Ivanovic, Tobin, Mori, Salapasisidis, Perin (Mullen 77), Armour, Mennillo, Brazzale (Costanzo 63).

MORWELL: Kourtis, Marcina, Cummings, Miller, Waddell, Bothwell, Todorovski (Villani 55), Stergiopoulos, Reda, Spink, Geri.



Joe Mullen: Hit the winner.

Battling Breakers bright start in Cup

**NEWCASTLE
BREAKERS 1
BRISBANE
STRIKERS 0**

BY JAI MCDERMOTT

A second half strike from midfield dynamo Glen Sprod was enough to see Newcastle defeat Brisbane in the opening round first leg of the Johnnie Walker Cup.

The victory continues an encouraging post Christmas run for the Novocastrians, who have lost just once in their last four starts. The result also ensures an intriguing second leg, to be played at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium this Wednesday night.

A mixture of injury and experimentation saw both sides field new look lineups. A fairly disjointed first half was a by-product of the reshuffle and it took until the 70th minute for the first and only goal to be scored.

Midfielder Scott Thomas won the ball well on the left before passing it to Sprod who had adopted a more attacking philosophy after the break.

The former Parramatta Eagles midfielder played a crisp ball to Troy Halpin on the edge of the area. Halpin's neat return pass put Sprod in a great position and he slotted a stylish opener past a

SCORER: Newcastle:
Sprod (68)

YELLOW CARDS:
Brisbane: Brayshaw (54)

CROWD: 1,310

REFEREE: C. Diomis

stranded Graham Ross in the Brisbane goal.

Sprod's goal was due reward for a committed effort. His fierce work rate was a feature of the match.

The Breakers' goal turned the tide in a dour struggle. It came after both sides had missed several chances. Brisbane were particularly unlucky on the stroke of half time when a Frank Farina volley was tipped over brilliantly by young goalkeeper Adam Fittock.

Brisbane were disadvantaged with several key players unavailable due to injury. Although they showed admirable patience when in possession, Stowell's side failed to achieve their normal fluency.

Retired Soccerroo Frank Farina was the most enterprising of the Queenslanders, but a lack of service from midfield meant he struggled to get into too many dangerous positions.

The midfield battle was undoubtedly the highlight of the first leg. Kosmina's switch of Moore to midfield and Stewart to his customary sweeper role looked

particularly effective, with Moore's high work rate in midfield and Stewart's distribution from the back the most obvious results.

It was the injection of 21 year-old Scott Thomas which seemed the key factor in the victory. Thomas has struggled to establish himself in the Breakers lineup this season but his Man-of-the-Match performance will give Kosmina much to think about.

Thomas added bite to Newcastle's midfield, winning possession repeatedly with some fierce challenges.

Brisbane mentor Bruce Stowell was "hugely disappointed" with the visit to Newcastle. He said he hoped at least some of his injured players would be available for the second leg clash, and recognised the tricky task now confronting his squad.

Newcastle coach John Kosmina was understandably happy with his side. He was particularly impressed with some of the younger players, and said they "deserved to retain their spots for the trip to Brisbane".

NEWCASTLE: Fittock, Hickman, Maier, Halpin, Moore, James, Bennett (D. Brown 70), Thomas, Pryce, Sprod, Stewart.

BRISBANE: Ross, Zoricich, Williams, Jackson (Wehrman 79), Farina, Polak, R. Brown, Ditton (Tollenaere 82), Brayshaw, Hughes, Battistin.

Johnnie Walker Cup

ROUND 1 - 1ST LEG

Wolves 'gong' Olympic

**UTS
OLYMPIC 2
WOLLONGONG
CITY 3**

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Wollongong City last Sunday night did a full 180 degree turn after seven consecutive losses in the League, by surprisingly beating the highly fancied Olympic 3-2 at Leichhardt Oval, Sydney in the first leg of the Johnnie Walker Cup.

Surprisingly because just nine days prior, Sydney Olympic thrashed City 4-0 at Brandon Park, Wollongong where the scoreline could have been greater.

It seemed with their brand new coach, Nick Theodorakopoulos, Wollongong's luck was to completely change.

Early in the game Olympic rocked the woodwork twice through cracking drives by left midfielder Nick Meredith and striker Chris Slater.

This time it was Olympic's turn to play one man short for most of the match, unlike the previous week when Wollongong had to battle on after their midfielder Angelo Petratos was red-carded early in the first half.

Olympic's star striker Kimon Taliadoros was red-carded by referee Simon Micallef 15 minutes into the game for a second bookable offence. He was adjudged to have fouled Wolves midfielder Lubjco Naumovski.

Wollongong's loping, pony-tailed striker Tony Perinich, nailed two excellent goals in the first session setting Wollongong on the way to a slender 2-1 lead at the break, before substitute Colin Luff hit the

SCORERS: Olympic:

Meredith (43), Trajanovski (55 pen).

Wollongong: Perinich (8, 23), Luff (68).

YELLOW CARDS:

Olympic: Taliadoros (2 and 15), Meredith (49).

Wollongong: Bourke (17), Jolevski (41) and Dihm (56).

RED CARDS: Olympic

Taliadoros (15).

CROWD: 2,624

REFEREE: S. Micallef.

winner in the 70th minute.

Wollongong's strength and unyielding defiance emanating from twin-central defenders, Mike O'Shea and Martin Bourke, was infectious, while Matt Horsely led gallantly with good service to his strikers from the flank.

In Olympic's defence they were missing their two young international stars in central midfielder Peter Tsekenis and goal-ace

Norman Tome, both on national duty in Adelaide with the Olympic Games squad.

A magnificently measured flat through-ball by Wollongong's high work-rate skipper Horsely in the seventh minute, split Olympic's defence and rolled perfectly inside the box for the advancing Perinich to race in and clinically hit into the corner of the target.

Slater hit the right post in the 14th minute when his drive deflected off course and five minutes later was again denied yet another possible goal when he found himself on a one-on-one situation with Wollongong's goalkeeper, Brett Hughes who pulled off a fabulous save.

Olympic's woes continued as lanky midfielder Meredith crashed a vicious rocket from wide left onto the second post only to see his fellow midfielder the industrious Walter Ardone

crack the rebound on target but again Hughes' gloves kept the home side scoreless.

Perinich stretched Wollongong's lead to 2-0 in the 24th minute with a glorious hit on the turn and from an acute angle on the right and just inside the box.

Four minutes into first half time added on, Olympic at long last pulled back a goal to relieve their supporters' agony but it took a violent flat rocket-drive through the marauding Meredith from again wide out on the left, to do it.

Olympic were awarded a penalty in the 55th minute when Wollongong defender Matthew Dihm fouled Olympic's leading scorer Kris Trajanovski well inside the box for the latter to take the spot kick and easily score the equaliser.

In the 68th minute, second half substitute striker Colin Luff, regained the lead for Wollongong. Luff brilliantly

hit a first time drive from a great cut-back off the byline by his captain Horsely.

Well into stoppage time, 96 minutes gone on the clock, Olympic still luckless, but now desperately searching for at least a draw, saw their giant substitute Robbie Ironside making his long-awaited comeback, hit from point-blank range straight to Hughes who could only parry the hot ball but the rebound, which was fired back in again by sweeper Milan Blagojevic, was again denied a goal.

Wolves jubilant coach Theodorakopoulos, reflected after the match: "A win is a win even though Olympic was depleted being without their two Olympic Games squad players. But again I repeat, a win is a win no matter what, especially being an 'away win'."

"We kept it compact at the back and used speed down the flanks on the

breaks when their attacks broke down. Our level of commitment was there and I expect it every week from now on", he ended.

A somewhat hostile Olympic coach, David Ratcliffe was still fuming after the match regarding the penalty awarded to his team in the 56th minute. Ratcliffe asked the press present, why wasn't the Wollongong defender who committed the foul for the penalty, sent off?

Ratcliffe then just added: "We gave them their first and third goal through schoolboy errors".

UTS OLYMPIC: Gibson, Baillie, Barrett, Bove (Vallas 46, also replaced by Ironside 76), Ciantar, Meredith, Ardone, Blagojevic, Taliadoros, Trajanovski, Slater (De Jesus 86).

WOLLONGONG CITY: Hughes, Dihm, Bourke, O'Shea, Gjakovski, Jolevski, Horsely, Naumovski, Middleby (Luff 47), Perinich, Jerman (Petratos 73).

South down depleted Knights

**SOUTH
MELBOURNE 4
MELBOURNE
KNIGHTS 2**

BY DWYGH TUFFNELL

Vaughan Coveny hit a hat-trick against his former club in South Melbourne's 4-2 win over Melbourne Knights in the Johnnie Walker Cup on Sunday at Bob Jane Stadium.

Coveny, who has scored only once in the league this season found some good form to see off the understrength Knights.

Vinko Vuljbasic, Frank Juric, Danny Tiatto and Joe Spiteri were all away on Olyroo duty while the Knights were also missing the services of injured Ante Kovacevic, Ice Kutlesovski and David Cervinski.

Steve Panopoulos set the Blues on their way with a superb 22 metre effort after 21 minutes.

Four minutes later the Knights defence were all at sea from Bill Diamianos' corner which Coveny headed in unchallenged.

South added a third in the 30th minute when Coveny latched onto Mike Petersen's clever through ball to lob stand-in Knights 'keeper Vikon Knezevic.

Young substitute Branko Bacak came up with an even better strike for the Knights, than Panopoulos' opener, in

SCORERS: South: Panopoulos (21), Coveny (25, 30, 71).

Knights: B Bacak (65), T. Pondeljak (79).

YELLOW CARDS:

Knights: J. Markovski (49), Z. Markovski (50).

CROWD: 1,800

REFEREE: G. Connelly

the 65th minute, blasting home Tom Pondeljak's square ball into Mike Petkovic's top corner.

Coveny collected his third goal six minutes later, heading in a clearance off the line from new signing Jean-Paul Knezevic's header.

Pondeljak scored the Knights second with 11 minutes to go to reduce the deficit and give them every chance in the second leg on Friday night at Somers Street.

This game was the last in charge for departing coach Mirko Bazic. Ian Dobson replaces Bazic.

Bazic thought that the side couldn't compete properly with the four Olyroos missing.

"Today we had to play without four of our best players and three injured players and then we lost Andrew Marth for the second half.

"South Melbourne were the better team and it will be very hard in the second leg, but there is always a chance," said Bazic.

Marth is certain to miss the second leg after coming off the ground at half time with an injured ankle, a sore joint in

the shoulder and a damaged nose after coming off second best with South striker Daniel Allsopp.

Marth believes the side can overcome the deficit on Friday night.

"We have to win 2-0 and most importantly not let them score, even though we'll have eight regulars missing. We can still do it."

Another blow for the Knights is the pending departure of Olyroo Tiatto to English Premier League club Leeds United which is something that has been kept a big secret by Tiatto.

South coach Frank Arok was still unhappy despite the 4-2 scoreline.

"It's always nice to beat the Knights because they are the champions but I was very annoyed with the way they got their two goals tonight."

Arok though was happy with the replacement players who played, particularly Knezevic who marked Knights striker John Markovski out of the game and looks to be the missing piece in their defensive puzzle.

SOUTH MELBOURNE: M. Petkovic, Anthopoulos (Sherifovski HT), J.P. Knezevic, Baser, Valkanis, Panopoulos, Damianos (Lewis 76), Coveny, Allsop (Kellic 64), Petersen, Trmboli.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS: V. Knezevic, DeAmicis, Z. Markovski, Marth (B Bacak HT), Silic, Lapsansky, Vojtek, J. Markovski (Movic 73), Nasteovski, T. Pondeljak, J. Bacak.

Johnnie Walker Cup

SOUTH MELBOURNE.....4
(Panopoulos 22, Coveny, 25, 30, 73)

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS2
(B Bacak 65, T Pondeljak 79)

UTS OLYMPIC.....2
(Meredith 43, Trajanovski 55 pen)

WOLLONGONG CITY3
(Perinich 8, 23, Luff 68)

MARCONI-FAIRFIELD1
(Maloney 38)

SYDNEY UNITED1
(S Babic 24)

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS1
(Sprod 68)

BRISBANE STRIKERS.....0

ADELAIDE CITY1
(Mullen 87)

MORWELL FALCONS 0

WEST ADELAIDE1
(Day 80)

CANBERRA COSMOS1
(Dunn 53)

ERICSSON CUP

	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A
UTS Olympic	35	17	10	5	2	33	17
Marconi Fairfield	34	17	10	4	3	30	17
Sydney United	30	17	8	6	3	24	15
Brisbane Strikers	29	17	9	2	6	25	19
Melbourne Knights	28	17	8	4	5	18	12
West Adelaide	25	17	7	4	6	23	21
Adelaide City	22	17	6	4	7	26	20
Morwell Falcons	21	17	6	3	8	21	29
Canberra Cosmos	20	17	5	5	7	26	27
South Melbourne	20	17	6	2	9	26	30
Newcastle Breakers	10	17	2	4	11	14	34
Wollongong City	10	17	3	1	13	12	37

ERICSSON CUP

Mid-season Report Card

PART 1

BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

WOLLONGONG CITY

The Wolves have been anything but in Summer '96. At the halfway stage they are languishing at the bottom and look most unlikely to improve on that position.



Again a lack of spending has left Wollongong without a competitive outfit in a new look league that in the main has belted forward this season. The mid-season break could be the only tonic for City as they regroup after the sacking of coach Berth Mariani, with the untried Nick Theodorokopoulos taking on the seemingly impossible task.

Outgoing Mariani was ditched after a 6-0 drubbing from a somewhat inconsistent South Melbourne and Theodorokopoulos began his reign with a 4-0 home smashing by the crack UTS Olympic side.

Ironically Dave Ratcliffe, coaching Olympic, had gone back to his old stamping ground and spared no prisoners as Olympic continued their breathtaking run at the top. Ratcliffe was once hailed a hero on the South Coast as he established a bits and pieces side that proved successful in the late 80s and early 90s.

Not so the '96 version, Wollongong the league's most beaten side, have the worst defence, the leakiest at home, and have lost seven out of nine at Brandon Park.

In addition Theodorokopoulos must work on his attack where the goals have dried up for the exciting Tony Perinich. The Wolves have scored only 12 in 17 games the worst in the league, and in their last seven games have scored only once.

Wollongong can add poor discipline to their



Brett Hughes: Saved the Wolves from obliteration. tale of woe, eight players sent off in just 17 matches, four more than next worst South Melbourne, and with new clubs clambering to join the Ericsson Cup. Wollongong also have the worst gates in the competition.

COACH RATING: Berth Mariani suffered the ignominy as the first casualty of the Summer. The former championship winning coach had no scope to spend and suffered due to that lack of support from his club. What fate for Nick Theodorokopoulos.

BEST PLAYER: Brett Hughes has stood as a lifeline between the Brandon Park sticks, he has still allowed 33 goals but has time and time again saved the Wolves from obliteration.

BEST YOUNG PLAYER: Tony Perinich's ability to sniff out opportunist goals has been a highlight in an otherwise dull season.

REALISTIC CHANCES: If Wollongong end up anywhere but bottom and survive extinction, it will have been a successful second half of the season.

BEST RESULT: A 2-0 defeat of Marconi in Round 7 at Brandon Park

BIGGEST SHOCK: Nick Theodorokopoulos appointed coach and a 6-0 defeat by fellow

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

The 'Wimbledon' of the Ericsson Cup have looked good in patches, but like Wollongong need more quality to back up the abundance of good youngsters developed in the Steel City.



Unfortunately the Breakers and Wollongong have been ostracised from the rest of the pack, while the top 10 will battle for the semis Newcastle will have to be content with staying off the bottom.

Although they have tested some of the best, Newcastle have gone down when they should have drawn or won and in all



Clayton Zane: Obvious talent will enable him to score many goals.

have won only twice in 17 starts.

Away from Breakers Stadium Kosmina's side have lost 8 from 9, a position they must improve in the run home.

COACH RATING: John Kosmina has predictably had his run in with officialdom but on the park has expressed his no nonsense approach through his players. The former Socceroo will be around for a long time.

BEST PLAYER: David Lowe has taken on a tough captaincy in the twilight of his career, the former Marconi mainstay has added experience to a largely locally drafted squad.

BEST YOUNG PLAYER: Clayton Zane's panache and obvious talent has added three goals to date, and the young star will score more in seasons ahead.

REALISTIC CHANCES: Without a miracle, second last.

BEST RESULT: A 2-1 win at previously unbeaten Sydney United in Round 5, also first goals conceded by the home side.

BIGGEST SHOCK: Winning 2-1 at Sydney United

SOUTH MELBOURNE

The league's glamour club is languishing, not so far from the top six, but unattractively third from bottom.



To his credit Frank Arok has mustered a talented array of up and coming youngsters around a basis of mainstay stars that remained from the clean out, a gutsy effort that may bear fruit in the coming months.

The opening of Bob Jane Stadium transformed the club again to be the most followed club in the country.

With their woeful record on the road, Souths need to re-establish their invincibility at home.

Since their disappointing defeat by West Adelaide on opening day, Souths are unbeaten at Bob Jane in their following five starts.

However, Arok's men are sloppy travellers, losing their last six matches, only Newcastle have lost more games away from home.

As the team ventures into the second half of the campaign the blend looks likely to break into the finals.

Paul Trimboli has found a new lease of life, again threading his passes through the eye of a needle and Ivan Kelic seems to have regained his touch for scoring a glut of goals. However, Kelic is off to Singapore.

Alan Davidson's brief guest appearances added some steel to a young troubled defensive line and Mike Petersen has imposed his class on the youngsters now holding their own.

Much is reflected by the personality of their coach.



Paul Trimboli: His finesse is a joy.

COACH RATING: Frank Arok's 'Mad Dog' insignia is destined to follow his every movement in football.

His pre-season clear out looked destined to backfire as Souths hit rock bottom.

However, in recent weeks the highly charged mentor has piloted the team towards the play-offs, and only a brave man would count out any side led by Arok.

BEST PLAYER: Paul Trimboli's finesse is a joy for any supporter of any club.

BEST YOUNG PLAYER: Steve Panopoulos has become a regular in the Blues middle, with sufficient presence of mind to take charge of the spot kicks.

REALISTIC CHANCES: Souths will remain a mathematical chance of the play-offs right down to the wire, however, their away record could prove decisive in the glamour club's chances of qualifying.

BEST RESULT: The slashing 6-0 rout of Wollongong in Round 16, avenging the Wolves 2-0 win in Round 5

BIGGEST SHOCK: West Adelaide spoiling the Bob Jane opening party subduing the record party goers with a late winner

CANBERRA COSMOS

The fairytale side from the City of fables, remain the unfancied underdogs despite some brilliant performances in the last month.



Somehow the Cosmos have turned around an appalling opening to the season to a position of respect and the threat of breaking into the league's top echelon.

It took nine matches for Canberra to leave the pitch as winners, an unconvincing 3-2 victory over struggling Newcastle, was the dawn of an amazing purple patch for the Cosmos.

The break-through victory began a run that saw Canberra beat the defending champions Melbourne Knights away, thrash in form Morwell 5-0 and consecutive 3-1 victories over South and Wolves within four days.

Little more can be said with regards to Paul Wade's contribution, a new lease of life and one of the league's top three goalscorers is an incredible achievement.



Paul Wade: Has scored nine goals so far.

Michael Musitano a strapping skilful striker and Michael Garcia are new jewels in the Canberra Crown, while skipper Marko Perinovic has been a torrid menace to all Ericsson Cup's defences.

While the Cosmos have lost only twice in nine games at Bruce Stadium, on the road two wins from eight starts is not good enough to make the finals.

It would seem coach Lyons has overcome every obstacle set in his path to date, and a remedy for their poor away results will be on his agenda.

Without a star studded international array of talent at his disposal, Lyons worked within limited boundaries and concentrated his efforts around tactics and set pieces.

COACH RATING: Mick Lyons a new face on the coaching roundabout in Australia and looks set to become a part of the furniture.

BEST PLAYER: No contest, Paul Wade.

BEST YOUNG PLAYER: Michael Musitano's often dangerous individual raids have been a pleasant highlight of Canberra's season.

REALISTIC CHANCES: The heart says Canberra will qualify for the semis, but the betting man sees the Cosmos as just creditably mid-table

BEST RESULT: 3-1 at Melbourne Knights the champions announced the serious arrival of the Cosmos.

BIGGEST SHOCK: Paul Wade scoring nine goals in half a season.

South's Kelic Singapore-bound

BY JUSTIN BRASIER
OF AAP

Departing South Melbourne striker Ivan Kelic believes the club's depth of young strikers will more than cover his loss for the remainder of the National League season.

Kelic leaves Australia later this month to join Tiong Bahru in Singapore's newly formed S League on loan until the end of the November.

The in-form shooter, who blasted home four goals in South's second last game against Wollongong, said the club's teenage strikers Daniel Allsop and Michael Curcija had big futures in the game.

Allsop has forged a reputation as one of the world's best teenage players after winning the Golden Boot award at last year's world Under 17 championships while Curcija showed his goal scoring prowess when he notched a hat-trick against Brazil at the World University Games.

"I think they can replace me with the young strikers they've got, the club just needs another experienced defender and, if so, I'm sure they'll finish in the top six," Kelic said.

Kelic has signed with South Melbourne for next season but has been allowed to play overseas this year as



Ivan Kelic: Some reservations about climate.

part of his new contract.

Each club in the new S League is allowed to sign up to five international players in an attempt to ensure the competition is a success.

"I think the standard will be good depending on the quality of the international players each club signs,"

Kelic said.

Kelic, 27, is confident he can make the transition in Singapore although he does have some reservations about the climate.

"The humidity there is pretty high and people tell me it takes a while to get used to," Kelic said.

Northern beaches bid for Ericsson Cup position

The northern Sydney beach peninsula's bid for inclusion in next season's Ericsson Cup - is now in the hands of Soccer Australia.

Seahawks' (the name chosen for the proposed new team) chief John Thomson lodged the official application on Thursday morning, two days before the January 13 deadline.

The comprehensive application included letters of support from Warringah Dolphins, Manly-Warringah Soccer Association, prospective sponsors and other local organisations.

A letter from Warringah Council approving the use of Brookvale Oval for the side's proposed Friday night home games was also included.

Thomson, who also received huge support from the Mosman and Kurng-gai areas, said yesterday he was still "as confident as ever" the bid would succeed.

Soccer Australia will announce the composition of the 1996/97 competition in early February.

With Brookvale Oval, agreement from major backers and a consortium of local businessmen satisfying Soccer Australia's criteria, Thomson has put together the area's best chance for inclusion.

— STORY COURTESY OF
ADAM LUCIUS OF THE MANLY DAILY

SA GIVE MORE TIME

Soccer Australia has announced an extension of the closing date for applications for teams to be entered in the 1996/97 Ericsson Cup from Saturday, January 13 to Wednesday, January 31.

A spokesman for Soccer Australia said that the reason for the extension was because of the exceptionally high level of interest from organisations wishing to submit a bid. Indications are that a record number of bids would be lodged. Soccer Australia has advised all existing Ericsson Cup clubs and other applicants of the extension.

Soccer Australia will announce the composition of the 1996/97 Ericsson Cup at the end of February.

Existing Ericsson Cup clubs have not been guaranteed entry into the Ericsson Cup, however Soccer Australia is confident that if the clubs are prepared to continue with progressive policies, they will be capable of meeting the conditions of entry.

SEVENTEEN AND OFF TO BUNDESLIGA

BY BOB BROOKS

A young man already, at 17, used to travelling with his sport to a variety of locations, left earlier this month for Germany. Sebastian Sinozic has an apprenticeship with KFC Uerdingen.

Sinozic represented Australia at Under 17 level with the Joeys in Ecuador at the World Cup in 1995. His ever-present record was spoiled when illness overtook him and he missed the game against Brazil.

He started playing with Connells Point at five. According to his father, Joe, he always wanted to be a professional footballer, even as young as five.

Sinozic graduated to the St George U/11 representative side and progressed naturally to the Saints Youth League sides up to Under 15 which he captained.

A move to Parramatta Eagles followed from where he was recommended to Les Scheinflug for the Joeys.

In fact Scheinflug rates him highly and believes that the player has what it takes to go all the way in the World Game.

Sinozic is equally at home at sweeper or stopper and that is what Bundesliga side Uerdingen have signed him for.

He will play his soccer in the Krefelder-based Under 19 team. The team includes three German Under 19 and two national Under 17 international representatives. So competition is going to be tough.

The biggest challenge, aside from the adjustment to a new team, will be to learn German. He will be billeted with a family who have six other Uerdingen apprentices staying with them. One is from the USA.

As Matt Gildea, the former Western Suburbs,

Sydney NSL winger, says, "Sebastian will be working at one of the Club's sponsors, training, learning Germany as well as playing. He will be too busy for very much else."

Gildea is Sinozic's agent and keen to see him do well.

Sebastian's departure for the new challenge leaves a gap in the Sinozic household. As Joe (the father) comments, "We always took our holiday where the national interstate titles were being held."

"Now we'll have a little more freedom."

While trialling in Germany, Sinozic has been in contact with Mark Schwarzer. The ace goalkeeper has made his debut in the Kaiserslautern first team, according to the well-built, tall young man.

As Sebastian says, "I'm looking forward to doing the best I can and to make it to the highest level possible." Noble sentiments indeed.



Sebastian Sinozic: Looking forward to doing the best he can.

STAR PROFILE Peter Tsekenis

AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC
GAMES QUALIFIERS



Date of Birth: August 4th 1973
Birthplace: Sydney
Previous Clubs: St George
Current Club: UTS Olympic
Position: Central midfielder or sweeper
Nickname: "Tseka"
Marital Status: Single
Occupation: Development Officer
Best Aspect of Your Game: Work-rate, ball-winning and reading game
Most Difficult Opponent: Andrew Marth
Most Impressive Local Player: Vlado Zoric
Favourite Overseas Player: Redondo (Real Madrid)
Favourite Overseas Club: Real Madrid
Euro '96 Tip: Holland
What Qualities Make a Good Coach: To have the respect of his players and be at all times honest
Most Unwelcome Dinner Guest: Saddam Hussein
Honours: NSW Schoolboys, Australian Schoolboys, NSW Under 13s to senior squad, World Youth, current Olympic Games squad
Ambitions For 1996: To play in the Atlanta Games and win the League championship with Olympic
Ambitions After Retiring: To stay within the Soccer circles
Most Memorable Moment: Winning the quarter finals against Uruguay in Brisbane in the 1995 World Youth championships
Hobbies Outside Soccer: Fishing
Best Goal You've Seen Scored: Damian Mori's 3.69 seconds
Favourite Food: Pasta
Favourite Drink: Orange Juice
Car You Drive: Mazda MX5
Favourite TV Show: Seinfeld
TV Show You Refuse To Watch: Beverly Hills 90210
Favourite Movies: Dumb and Dumber
Favourite Actor/Actress: Jean Claude Van Damme and Demi Moore
Preferred Music: Dance Music
Least Preferred Music: Heavy Metal
Favourite Comedian: Steedle Eddie
Pet Hates: Bad losers
Special Advice To Young Players: Be your own critic and train very hard always
Person You Would Most Like To Meet: Diego Maradona

By John Economos

Bonnyrigg sign experienced Marshall Soper

Former Super League Champions, Bonnyrigg White Eagles scored a major coup last week with the signing of ex-Socceroo Marshall Soper.

Soper was supposedly signing for Wollongong City for the remainder of the Ericsson Cup season however Bonnyrigg were able to convince the controversial Soper to play in the 1996 Super League season instead.

He has had previous loan stints with Bankstown City Lions in the Super League, taking them to a Minor Premiership and two Grand Final wins.

The much travelled striker has just returned from a stint in Malaysia but was keen to find a club in Australia much to the delight of Bonnyrigg's new coach John Turner.

"We are very pleased to have a player of his class and experience on board."

"Players with his ability don't come around to Super League clubs everyday of the week, so we are very fortunate to get him especially when a number of National League clubs were interested in his signature".

Turner added "with so

many young players in the first team squad, Soper's knowledge of the game should rub off on these players and hopefully mould them into a championship winning team".

Turner hopes to add to his squad with another couple of experienced players but was awaiting clearances for these players.

He has however secured the clearance of youngster Jason Flynn who he had at Mt Druitt Town Rangers last season, while Roman Nikolic has recovered from a back injury that forced him to miss most of last season.

Off the field things are going well. The club has finished the first stage of the new grandstand.

The 800 seat stand to be called the Avala Grandstand will be officially opened on February 4, a week before the competition commences.

Bonnyrigg will take on co-tenants for the 1996 season Canterbury Marrickville in a special match to celebrate the opening, with a 4.00pm kick-off.

Festivities will start at 1.00pm and should provide a good family day out.



Marshall Soper: Will show his talents in NSW Super League.

Farnsworth seeking new players for Mt Druitt

BY BARRY DAVIES

Mount Druitt Town Rangers Soccer Club are conducting open trials for their First Division State League teams every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday at Popondetta Park.

"Open Trials" mean exactly that at Mt Druitt, the club is certain that there are many players who could compete successfully at the top level and they are willing to give them a chance to make the grade.

Any player who feels he has the ability and wants to play in the NSW First Division is welcome to attend and trial for First Grade, U/21s and U/18s.

The Tuesday and Thursday trials will commence at 7pm sharp and the Sunday trials will begin at 7.30am.

Mt Druitt welcomes back Wayne Farnsworth as first grade coach.

Wayne brought tremendous success to the club in his previous spell in charge and it is anticipated that he will be able to build a team to bring similar success in the future.

The U/18s will be coached by Wolfgang Betker who has a wealth of experience and knowledge. Wolfgang recently coached the 1995 U/18s to win the championship in the Sydney World Cup.

The club is still looking for a suitably qualified and experienced coach for the U/21 team.

For any further information about the trials please contact Wayne Farnsworth on 670 6136 or Wolfgang Betker on (02) 628 9452.

KOREAN PRO-TEAM IN NSW

DAEWOO ROYALS SOCCER SQUAD

Name	Position	Height (cm)	Weight (kg)	100m (min)	Career Highlight
Mik Sasa	G.K.	190	82	12.5	National Player of Yugoslavia
B.C. Shin	G.K.	185	82	12.5	92' Olympic Player
S.S. Youn	D.F*	170	62	12.2	90' World Cup Player
H.Y. Park	D.F*	178	76	12.5	National Team Player
B.H. Yoo	D.F.	183	70	12.5	All Star of Korea
J.H. Lee	D.F.	180	72	12.3	All Star University Player
J.B. Park	D.F*	183	81	12.5	94' World Cup Player
W.Y. Yoo	D.F.	183	79	12.3	All Star University Player
H.S. Kim	D.F.	186	80	12.3	96' Olympic National Player
H.H. Youn	D.F.	180	72	12.2	All Star University Player
C.H. Kim	D.F.	176	73	12.2	All Star University Player
H.S. Lee	D.F.	182	73	12	96' Olympic National Player
S.M. Kim	M.F*	175	64	12.3	National Team Player
H.S. Kim	M.F*	177	73	11.9	94' World Cup Player
S.Y. Ha	M.F*	173	72	11.9	94' World Cup Player
S.S. Um	M.F*	167	65	12.2	National Player
S.D. An	M.F*	181	73	12.5	National Player
Teljigovic Amir	M.F.	180	80	13	National Player of Yugoslavia
Y.H. Na	M.F.	180	70	12	All Star University Player
J.Y. Myoung	M.F.	166	61	13	Univerciad Player
J.H. Kim	M.F.	187	75	12.5	Univerciad Player
S.S. Ha	M.F*	170	65	12.4	National Team Player
K.H. No	F.W*	181	74	12.3	National Team Player
J.B. Kim	F.W*	183	79	12.3	90' World Cup Player
J.K. Chung	F.W*	170	68	11.8	94' World Cup Player
Drakulic	F.W.	182	79	12.3	National Player of Yugoslavia

* Korea international

Woo Chung KimOwner of Daewoo Group
Young Hwan KimHead of Delegation
Jong Bok AhanAssistant of Head of Delegation
Mun Soong ShinHead Coach
Jae Hoo LeeAssistant Coach

BY BOB BROOKS

Overseas sports teams continue to stream into Australia for training and playing assignments. The latest into Sydney is Daewoo Royals from the Korean League.

Valentine Sports Park in the rapidly developing north west of the Sydney conurbation, in the major city of Blacktown, will be Daewoo's headquarters while in Australia. Their party arrived yesterday.

Valentine Sports Park has first class accommodation, three full-size soccer fields, a swimming pool, a large gymnasium and a highly rated restaurant for residents. It is without doubt the finest sporting complex in the country with the exception of the Australian



Kim Hyun Seok : Midfielder.

Institute of Sport in Canberra. Valentine Park is the envy of all the major sports in Australia.

Daewoo Royals are a fully professional outfit who have 26 players in their training squad including twelve South



Kim Jeong Hyeok: Midfielder.

Korea internationals and three from the former Yugoslavia.

The Royals are scheduled to play St George Saints, Blacktown City Demons, Parramatta Eagles, Bankstown City. All four

teams play in the NSW Soccer Super League. Games against Wollongong Wolves and Newcastle Breakers have yet to be confirmed.

Probably the best known of the visitors is J.B. Park an international defensive player along with striker J.K. Chung. Both represented South Korea in the 1994 World Cup. Chung is a fast, slippery player who makes up for his lack of height with deft ball skills.

St George take on Daewoo Royals on Friday January 19 at 7pm. The game will be played at St George Stadium, Bestic Street, Rockdale.

The Saints, like their Super League colleagues, are preparing for the season start on February 10 and will therefore probably lack something in match fitness.

Dolphins re-building with Muniz

Warringah Dolphins will have to defend its NSW Super League title without nine of last year's grand final-winning side.

The first outing will be against newcomers Central Coast at Cromer Park on February 11.

New boss Agenor Muniz has started a rebuilding program and will look to former NSW under-23 rep Matthew Lowe, striker Sam Panetta and

defender Phil Moss to lead his young charges.

Former reserve graders David Guzzo, Leon Dauzacker, Darren Sekulic and Danny Barbalace have been training the house down and also look set to figure prominently in Muniz's plans.

Former Brookvale striker Dean Harding should also prove a valuable asset after signing with the Super League champions this week.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

BY RICHARD KREIDER

WORLD CUP STAR TO OPEN NIGHT SERIES

England's 1966 World Cup final hat-trick hero Geoff Hurst is heading for Perth as the state's 100 year soccer celebrations start to gather momentum.

The champion net-buster will be making his second appearance in the West. He previously toured with English club Stoke City in May 1973, when he scored twice and set up the other in a 3-0 win against WA in front of 15,000 at Perry Lakes Stadium.

Fellow World Cup team-mates Gordon Banks and George Eastham OBE were also in the Potters team.

This time his only playing engagement could be a benefit match for the late Joe Faria who died as a result of a car accident last month.

His other duties will include opening the Quilt Night Series competition, attending a coaching clinic and entertain a function with an after-dinner speech. He will also be performing the latter in Queensland just prior to landing in Perth.

"The Professional Soccer Federation are delighted to secure the services of one of the world's greatest footballers, especially in the 30th anniversary year of



Geoff Hurst: Scored 24 times for England including the only World Cup Final hat-trick.

times for his country and scored 24 goals.

He moved to Stoke in the 1972/73 season where he clocked up over 100 games and netted 30 goals. He ended his league career at West Bromwich Albion three years later with 10 games and two goals, then spent a season in North America with Seattle Sounders.

Hurst returned to England where he became player/manager of non-league Telford before going into full management with Chelsea and later assisting Ron Greenwood with the running of the England team.

He is currently Managing Director of a car warranty company, and is again involved with the West Ham club, where he plays host to the '66 Club' in the Bobby Moore

England's magnificent World Cup triumph," said PSF Marketing Director Gary Williams.

Hurst, who turned 54 last month, started his career as a pro in April 1959. What followed was an illustrious career at West Ham United that spanned 13 years including 498 league and cup appearances — ninth in the list of all-time league appearances for the club and 248 goals. He was capped 49

Stand.

Meanwhile, the 36th Night Series tournament gets underway at Inglewood on February 2 with Spearwood Dalmatinac facing newly promoted Western Knights, and Perth versus Bayswater Panthers. Stirling Macedonia kick-off their pursuit of a hat-trick of Night Series titles two days later with a first round match versus 1994 finalists Floreat Athena.



Geoff Hurst: Seen in his number 10 shirt for West Ham United.

National League: has to go professional

Former Scotland and West Ham United goalkeeper Bobby Ferguson believes the local National League competition is only 15-20% below the standard of European soccer, and agrees with what most supporters of the code are crying out for.

"It has to go professional" said Ferguson who now lives in Adelaide. "The geographical location of Australia doesn't help, but if we make the national League fully pro, that will compensate quite adequately."

Having more overseas teams visit here wouldn't hurt either," he said.

Ferguson signed for the Hammers in 1967 from Scottish club Kilmarnock for a then British record fee of £65,000, and went on to make nearly 300 appearances, ending in November 1979.

He had also represented Scotland on seven occasions from 1966.

"West Ham have always been a good family club, never any mudslinging or controversy," he said.

He moved his family to Australia in 1981 and was player/coach of Adelaide City for two and a half years before taking the helm at State League side WT Birkalla between 1984/86.

Ferguson did however single out ex-Adelaide City forward Charlie Villani as a player that he had a lot of time for. "Charlie was a very skilful striker, and it was a shame he never made it."

Currently, Ferguson is self-employed in the telecommunications business, and despite never having been back, he says he still misses London, and has hinted that he is looking at visiting the old country at the end of the year.

"I don't miss playing, just the atmosphere," said Ferguson who now plays a mean game of golf off a nine handicap. Apart from English football, he is a great fan of Italian Serie A, and keeps up to date with it through ABSW.

And his tip for the European Championship "Scotland, without any question."

Olympics Futsal bid by Canberra

BY STEVE CONNOLLY OF AAP

National Indoor Soccer Federation president Charles Perkins last Wednesday defended Canberra's bid to host the sport if it becomes part of the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Futsal, five a side indoor soccer, is among a number of sports vying for inclusion in the Sydney program with the International Olympic Committee to decide the issue in December.

ACT Chief Minister Kate Carnell, who launched Canberra's bid last week at the national Futsal championships at the Australian Institute of Sport, has come under attack for accepting a trip this weekend to Brazil for the Futsal mini world cup.

The trip, designed to lobby international Futsal officials and the hierarchy of soccer's world body FIFA, has been criticised by ACT Labor Opposition leader Rosemary Follett as a blatant and cynical junket.

But Perkins, the prominent

Aboriginal community leader, said Carnell in Brazil could meet influential people such as FIFA's powerful president Joao Havelange.

"I think it's a good idea because she would add status to the delegation," said Perkins, who this month became a consultant to the Australian Sports Commission.

Perkins, a member of the Sydney Olympic bid committee, said he was surprised at Follett's reaction considering his federation had discussed the futsal proposal with the previous ACT Labor government.

"I don't think she knows what she's talking about," he said.

Carnell said hosting an Olympic Futsal competition and pre-Olympic training would generate tens of millions of dollars for Canberra.

"Top soccer officials from around the world will be in Brazil next week giving an ideal opportunity to press Canberra's case," she said.

"I believe in selling Canberra to the

world, and this gives us an opportunity to do that at very little cost to the taxpayer."

A spokesman for the chief minister said the Futsal federation would pay for airfares, while accommodation costs would come from the government's existing travel budget.

If Futsal becomes one of the 27 sports for the Sydney Games it will be up to the Sydney organising committee to determine whether any matches would be played in Canberra.

Perkins said Canberra, which this week is hosting 14,000 competitors at the national titles, had the best facilities for indoor soccer.

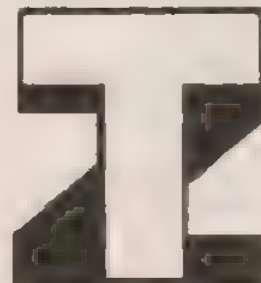
Athletes could be accommodated at the AIS and university residences.

"We've got an understanding Canberra is the best place to have it," he said.

Perkins said Canberra could host the pre-Olympic and preliminary competitions with the finals played in Sydney.

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Johnnie Walker Cup

Unwanted child



BY GREG BLAKE



Not always well accepted, our own Johnnie Walker (League) Cup still has a rich history all of its own.

The players, coaches and fans have whinged about various aspects of the knock-out competition since the National League started in 1977, yet it has survived and provided some memorable moments.

Although looked upon as a weak diversion from the real thing, try telling supporters from clubs like Parramatta and Heidelberg that winning the cup wasn't worth the effort in recent years as those two teams grabbed some golden memories.

With the current series now underway, here is a glance back at the history of the often underrated cup.



CUP FINALS

1977 to 1994/95



YEAR	RESULT	VENUE	CROWD	YEAR	RESULT	VENUE	CROWD
1977	Brisbane City 1 (Tokesi) — Marconi 1 (Sharne) *AET. Bris. won 5-3 on penalties.	Perry Park, Brisbane	Est. 9,000	1988	West Adelaide 2 (Hristodoulou 2) — Sydney City 3 (Farina 2, Kosmina) *AET. 1-1 after 90 minutes.	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	Est. 3,200
1978	Brisbane City 2 (Kelso, Pimblett) — Adelaide City 1 (Matic).	Perry Park, Brisbane	Est. 6,500	1987	1st Leg: Sydney Utd 1 (Slater) — South Melbourne 0. 2nd Leg: South Melbourne 0 — Sydney Utd 1 (Arnold). United won 2-0 on aggregate.	St George Stadium, Sydney and Olympic Park, Melbourne	1st Leg — 3,845 2nd Leg — 8,956
1979	Adelaide City 3 (J. Nyskohus 2, B. Nyskohus) — St George 2 (O'Connor, J. O'Shea).	Olympic Sports Field, Adelaide	Not available	1988	Apia Leichhardt 0 — Melbourne Zebras 0. AET. Apia won 5-3 on penalties.	Marconi Stadium, Sydney	Est. 2,200
1980	Heidelberg Utd 0 — Marconi 0 *AET in Melbourne. Marconi 3 (Byrne pen., Krncevic, Sharne) — Heidelberg Utd 0 in replay in Sydney.	Olympic Park, Melbourne and St George Stadium, Sydney	Not available	1989	Adelaide City 2 (Maxwell, A. Vidmar) — Sydney Olympic 0.	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	9,048
1981	Brisbane Lions 3 (Daunt, Ferris, Williamson) — West Adelaide 1 (Topaz)	Bruce Stadium, Canberra	Est. 7,000	'89/90	South Melbourne 4 (Taliadoros, Petersen, Trimboli pen., Tsolakis) — Sydney Olympic 1 (Edwards).	Olympic Park, Melbourne	8,790
1982	Heidelberg Utd 1 (Campbell) — Apia Leichhardt 2 (McBreen, Butler)	Olympic Park, Melbourne	Est. 8,500	'90/91	Parramatta Eagles 1 (Brown) — Preston 0.	Marconi Stadium, Sydney	6,749
1983	1st Leg: Sydney Olympic 1 (Patalis) — Heidelberg Utd 0. 2nd Leg: Sydney Olympic 1 (Patalis) — Heidelberg Utd 0. Olympic won 2-0 on aggregate.	St George Stadium, Sydney and Olympic Park, Melbourne	1st Leg — 6,240 2nd Leg — 6,110	'91/92	Adelaide City 2 (Mullen, T. Vidmar) — Marconi 1 (Jones).	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	3,102
1984	Melbourne Knights 0 — Newcastle Rosebud 1 (Todd).	Olympic Park, Melbourne	4,023	'92/93	Parramatta Eagles 1 (Reda) — Heidelberg Utd 2 (Scott, Slifkas).	Marconi Stadium, Sydney	2,596
1985	Sydney Olympic 2 (Soper, Raskopoulos) — Preston 1.	St George Stadium, Sydney	6,147	'93/94	Parramatta Eagles 2 (Kupresak own goal, Renaud) — Sydney Utd 0.	Marconi Stadium, Sydney	4,156
				'94/95	Melbourne Knights 6 (Spiteri 2, Viduka 2, Horvat, Biskic) — Heidelberg Utd 0.	Olympic Park, Melbourne	5,041

* AET - After Extra Time.

Johnnie Walker Cup

has rich history



1996 JOHNNIE WALKER CUP DRAW

ROUND 1 — FIRST LEG

MATCH	HOME		AWAY
January 3, 1996			
B.1	West Adelaide 1	v	Canberra Cosmos 1
January 10, 1996			
A.1	Adelaide City 1	v	Morwell Falcons 0
January 12, 1996			
F.1	Newcastle Breakers	v	Brisbane Strikers
January 14, 1996			
C.1	South Melbourne	v	Melbourne Knights
D.1	UTS Olympic	v	Wollongong City
E.1	Marconi Fairfield	v	Sydney United

ROUND 1 — SECOND LEG

January 20, 1996			
A.2	Morwell Falcons	v	Adelaide City
B.2	Canberra Cosmos	v	West Adelaide
C.2	Melbourne Knights	v	South Melbourne
D.2	Wollongong City	v	UTS Olympic
E.2	Sydney United	v	Marconi Fairfield
F.2	Brisbane Strikers	v	Newcastle Breakers

ROUND 2 — QUARTER FINALS

'H'	Winner 'A'	v	Bye
'I'	Winner 'B'	v	Bye
January 23, 1996			
'J'	Winner 'E'	v	Winner 'C'
'K'	Winner 'D'	v	Winner 'F'

SEMI-FINALS

January 25, 1996			
'L'	Winner 'A'	v	Winner 'K'
'M'	Winner 'J'	v	Winner 'B'

CUP FINAL

January 27, 1996			
'N'	Winner 'L'	v	Winner 'M'

ALL-TIME CUP RECORDS OF EVERY COMPETING CLUB

1977 to 1994/95

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	%
ADELAIDE CITY	52	31	9	12	93	47	68.3
Heidelberg United	52	27	10	15	89	66	61.5
MARCONI FAIRFIELD	49	25	6	18	79	60	57.1
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	46	26	4	16	80	66	60.9
SOUTH MELBOURNE	46	25	5	16	108	63	59.8
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	37	19	3	15	62	46	55.4
Apia Leichhardt	34	21	2	11	53	47	64.7
WEST ADELAIDE	34	12	6	16	49	52	44.1
Preston	32	14	3	15	52	45	48.4
SYDNEY UNITED	32	12	5	15	38	47	45.3
Canberra City/Arrows	30	18	2	10	59	48	63.3
Brisbane Lions	28	16	2	10	55	40	60.7
Brisbane City	27	16	4	7	46	33	66.7
Sydney City	27	15	4	8	55	30	63.0
Parramatta Eagles	27	15	3	9	41	36	61.1
St George	26	7	3	16	33	53	32.7
WOLLONGONG CITY	24	5	1	18	34	49	22.9
Melbourne City JUST	21	6	3	12	25	35	35.7
Sunshine George Cross	19	7	3	9	26	29	44.7
Melbourne Zebras	16	3	3	10	12	30	28.1
Newcastle United	14	8	2	4	23	16	64.3
BRISBANE STRIKERS	13	5	2	6	18	21	46.2
Newcastle Rosebud	12	9	0	3	21	11	37.5
Blacktown City	12	3	2	7	18	26	33.3
Green Gully	10	2	1	7	15	25	25.0
MORWELL FALCONS	8	2	0	6	10	24	25.0
Western Suburbs	5	3	1	1	6	3	70.0
Penrith City	5	2	1	2	8	5	50.0
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS	5	0	2	3	5	10	20.0
Adelaide Croatia (SA)*	4	2	0	2	4	5	50.0
E. Districts Azzurri (SA)*	4	2	0	2	6	8	50.0
St Kilda Hakoah (Vic)*	4	2	0	2	6	8	50.0
Beograd Woodville (SA)*	4	2	0	2	5	11	50.0
Inter Monaro	4	1	0	3	11	8	25.0
Ipswich Utd (Queens)*	4	0	0	4	4	12	00.0
West Woden Juve (ACT)*	4	0	0	4	2	22	00.0
Spearwood (WA)*	3	2	0	1	6	2	66.7
Croydon City (Vic)*	3	2	0	1	6	3	66.7
Canterbury	3	1	0	2	3	4	33.3
Weston Bears (NSW)*	3	1	0	2	2	3	33.3
Kingsway Olympic (SA)*	3	1	0	2	5	7	33.3
Mt Gravatt (QLD)*	3	1	0	2	3	5	33.3
Edgeworth Eagles (NSW)*	3	0	0	3	3	8	00.0
Auburn (NSW)*	3	0	0	3	4	9	00.0
Sutherland (NSW)*	3	0	0	3	1	6	00.0
Cumberland Utd (SA)*	3	0	0	3	4	10	00.0
Moorebank	2	1	0	1	1	3	50.0
St George Souths (QLD)*	2	0	0	2	2	3	00.0
Southside Eagles (QLD)*	2	0	0	2	5	7	00.0
Grange Thistle (QLD)*	2	0	0	2	0	4	00.0
Juventus Pioneer (Tas)*	2	0	0	2	2	10	00.0
White Eagles (Tas)*	2	0	0	2	0	8	00.0
Stirling Mac. (WA)*	1	0	1	0	1	1	50.0
Rockdale Illinden (NSW)*	1	0	0	1	2	3	00.0
Belmont Swansea (NSW)*	1	0	0	1	1	2	00.0
Cardiff (NSW)*	1	0	0	1	0	1	00.0
Rapid (NSW)*	1	0	0	1	0	1	00.0
Wollongong Mac.	1	0	0	1	0	1	00.0
Para Hills (SA)*	1	0	0	1	1	3	00.0
Elizabeth City (SA)*	1	0	0	1	0	2	00.0
Prahran Slavica (Vic)*	1	0	0	1	3	6	00.0
Frankston City (Vic)*	1	0	0	1	2	5	00.0
Ascot (SA)*	1	0	0	1	1	4	00.0
Downer Olympic (ACT)*	1	0	0	1	0	3	00.0
Mareeba (QLD)*	1	0	0	1	0	3	00.0
Salisbury Utd (SA)*	1	0	0	1	0	3	00.0
Townsville (Queens)*	1	0	0	1	0	3	00.0
West Point (Tas)*	1	0	0	1	1	5	00.0
Croatia Deakin (ACT)*	1	0	0	1	2	7	00.0
Enfield Victoria (SA)*	1	0	0	1	0	5	00.0
Noalunga Utd (SA)*	1	0	0	1	0	5	00.0
W. Torrens Birkalla (SA)*	1	0	0	1	0	5	00.0
Annerley (QLD)*	1	0	0	1	0	7	00.0
CANBERRA COSMOS	0	0	0	0	0	0	00.0

ALL FIGURES CALCULATED TO THE END OF THE 1994/95 SEASON, WITH ALL CUP GAMES DECIDED ON PENALTIES SHOWN AS DRAWN MATCHES.

* Denotes non-NSL team invited to compete in expanded Australia-wide cup competition in 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1985 or 1986. Other teams have all appeared in the Ericsson Cup competition at some stage between 1977 and 1995/96, with current National League teams in CAPS.

JOHNNIE WALKER CUP EXPERTS

(1977 to 1994-95)

TEAM	WINNERS	RUNNERS-UP	SEMI-FINALS OR BETTER
Adelaide City	3	1	7
Sydney Olympic	2	2	5
Apia Leichhardt	2	0	6
Parramatta Eagles	2	1	3
Brisbane City	2	0	2
Heidelberg Utd	1	4	8
South Melbourne	1	1	8
Marconi Fairfield	1	2	6
Sydney United	1	1	4
Melbourne Knights	1	1	3
Brisbane Lions	1	0	3
Newcastle Rosebud	1	0	2
Sydney City	1	0	1
West Adelaide	1	2	3
Preston	0	2	2
Melbourne Zebras	1	1	1
St George	0	1	1
Canberra City	0	0	4
Newcastle United	0	0	2
Brisbane Strikers	0	0	2
Melbourne City	0	0	1
Sunshine G.Cross	0	0	1

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WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR

SYDNEY COSMOS GEARING UP FOR A BIG DEBUT SEASON



Sydney Cosmos have signed Australia's goalkeeper Claire Nichols. Nichols joins fellow internationals Julie Murray and Denise Pentecost. Other big name signings are also reportedly close to being sealed — Kim Lembryk, Kaylene Janssen, and Louise McMurtrie — all 1995 World Cup players. Final trials for the WSL season will be held 24 and 31 January.

INTERSTATE CLASH

In keeping with women soccer's growing relationship with Soccer Australia, further women's matches are presently being arranged around the Socceroos' upcoming international program.

The newly found co-operative actions between AWSA and SA proved a great success for both parties last year, and thankfully the positive venture will continue during this new year.

Confirmed at this stage is the opening match to be held in Wollongong on Saturday 10 February preceding the Socceroos versus Japan international.

The women's match will be an interstate clash between national champions NSW and the ACT.

AUSSIES AT SYDNEY SPORTS EXPO

In combination with Soccer Australia and Soccer New South Wales, AWSA will be participating at the Sydney Sports Expo to be held over the Australia Day period 25-28 January.

The popular exposition to be held at Darling Harbour in the heart of Sydney is a showcase of all varieties of sports, and a chance to reach out to the all important public at large.

All young girls are especially encouraged to get along to the Expo for a chance to meet Australian team members who will have giveaways and be signing autographs.

Schoolgirls take on New Zealand

The Australia Schoolgirls team departs today (Tuesday), bound for New Zealand's North Island to take on the New Zealand U/17 team at the Mt Smart Stadium.

The 10-day tour will also include a schedule of matches against regional opponents Auckland U/17, Auckland Schoolgirls, Waikato and Bay of Plenty.

A year since the New Zealanders were hosted in Sydney, Mittagong and Canberra, the Aussies will be keen to improve on the win, draw and loss produced at home on that occasion.

Four players from the 1995 series have again been selected for this tour — Bronwyn Duce, Kristy Heyward, Candice McMinn, and Amy Taylor.

The 16-member team was selected following the Australian Secondary schools Championship held last August in Perth. NSW, undefeated champions, have seven representatives.

ACT's Amy Wilson was selected in the team but is unavailable to tour, and has been replaced by Debbie Gorton.

NSW and ACT members

last month were given the valuable opportunity to take on the quality national U/20 sides from Korea and New Zealand.

At the AIS for training and the International youth Challenge, AWSA invited the schoolgirls to provide the touring sides with further matchplay.

The two games also allowed coach Greg Best a welcome chance to work on tactics and teamwork with some of his charges.



Carly Copeland: Australian Schoolgirls representative.

AUSTRALIAN SQUAD NEW ZEALAND TOUR 1996

JOANNE	BUTLAND	QLD
CARLY	COPELAND	NSW
ROCHELLE	DOYLE	NSW
BRONWYN	DUCE	QLD
LISA	GILBERT	NSW
DEBBIE	GORON	WA
KIRSTY	HEYWARD	NSW
APRIL	MANN	QLD
DONNA	MARSDEN	NSW
CANDIS	MCCLENNAN	NT
CANDICE	MCMINN	WA
ANNALIEBE	RADECKAR	QLD
TINA	RASDELL	NSW
PETA	SHIRLAW	NSW
AMY	TAYLOR	ACT
MIRANDA	WOOD	WA
COACH:	GREG BEST	NSW
ASST COACH:	ROGER HOLCROFT	QLD
MANAGER:	CHRISTINE HUNT	QLD
TOUR MANAGER:	OWEN STINDEN	NSW

JUNE

Apologies to all readers that the following was inadvertently omitted from last week's '1995 In Review'

2ND FIFA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FOR WOMEN'S FOOTBALL, SWEDEN

Australia's debut appearance at the World Cup finals, competing after just 10 months preparation. The Aussies will find it tough to finish in the top eight thus qualifying for the Atlanta Olympic Games.

GROUP C:

6/6/95: Vasteras: Crowd 1,500

AUSTRALIA	0	DENMARK	5	(0-3)
		Krogh 13th, 49th		
		Nielsen 27th		
		Jensen 39th		
		Hansen 87th		

Australia: Wheeler, Tann-Darby, Cooper, Gegenhuber (RC 30th), Oakley, Watson (YC), Forman (YC), Salisbury (YC) (Lembryk 56), Murray, Casagrande (Claydon 79), Hughes (Iannotta 56).

Australia's dreams were all but shattered in a match they knew they had to win. Denmark dominated play, but this was not to be the focus of the match.

On the wrong end of some suspect refereeing decisions, Australia found themselves behind in goals and in players with the send-off of Sonia Gegenhuber after just 30 minutes.

8/6/95: Vasteras: Crowd 1,602

AUSTRALIA	2	CHINA	4	(1-1)
		Yang Zhou 23rd		
		Guilong Shi 54th, 76th		
		Ailing Liu 90th		

Australia: Wheeler, Tann-Darby, Cooper, Salisbury (YC) (Claydon 76), Oakley, Watson (YC), Forman, Lembryk (Casagrande 61), Murray (Pentecost 80), Iannotta, Hughes.

Australia did exceptionally well to pick themselves up after the earlier thrashing and showed great fight and spirit against the classy Chinese outfit.

Level at half-time, the Aussies made China earn their victory.

10/6/95: Helsingborg: Crowd 1,105

AUSTRALIA	1	USA	4	(0-0)
		Julie Foudy 63rd		
		Joy Fawcett 71st		
		Carla Overbeck 88th (pen)		
		Debbie Keller 90th		

Australia: Wheeler, Tann-Darby, Cooper, Gegenhuber, Oakley (Wainwright 76), Iannotta, Forman, Murray, Lembryk (Janssen 83), Hughes, Casagrande (Claydon 66).

In another spirited and determined effort, Australia gave the defending World Champions their biggest fright in World Cup football.

The Aussies held the classy athletes for the first half, and actually took the lead before conceding four late goals.

The Aussies campaign was lost after the opening result against Denmark, but the whole World Cup experience will remain as a huge learning experience for the sport's future in Australia.

Plenty of guts and determination can not make up for less than a year's preparation.

ITALY's Serie A & B

TABLES

SERIE A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	17	9	7	1	26	12	34
Fiorentina	17	10	3	4	30	19	33
Parma	17	8	7	2	27	16	31
Juventus	17	8	4	5	24	16	28
Lazio	17	7	5	5	31	19	26
Roma	17	6	7	4	20	15	25
Udinese	17	7	4	6	21	20	25
Inter	17	6	6	5	22	15	24
Vicenza	17	6	6	5	16	15	24
Napoli	17	5	8	4	17	17	23
Sampdoria	17	5	7	5	26	26	22
Atalanta	17	6	4	7	21	27	22
Cagliari	17	6	2	9	13	24	20
Torino	17	3	8	6	17	26	17
Bari	17	4	4	9	25	37	16
Piacenza	17	4	4	9	18	33	16
Padova	17	4	3	10	18	28	15
Cremonese	17	2	5	10	18	25	11

SERIE B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pescara	19	9	4	6	26	25	31
Cesena	19	7	7	5	26	18	28
Genoa	19	8	4	7	31	27	28
Bologna	19	6	10	3	16	12	28
Palermo	19	6	10	3	15	15	28
Cosenza	19	6	9	4	23	20	27
Verona	19	7	6	6	18	16	27
Reggiana	19	7	6	6	18	19	27
Ancona	18	8	2	8	24	21	26
Perugia	19	6	8	5	23	20	26
Venezia	19	6	8	5	15	17	26
Salernitana	19	6	6	7	17	15	24
Brescia	19	6	5	8	25	22	23
F. Andria	19	5	8	6	21	21	23
Reggina	18	5	8	5	17	22	23
Foggia	19	5	7	7	15	20	22
Lucchese	18	4	9	5	13	18	21
Chievo V.	19	3	11	5	13	15	20
Avellino	19	5	5	9	19	26	20
Pistoiese	18	3	7	8	17	23	16

RESULTS

SERIE A

Cremonese.....0	Milan.....0
Fiorentina.....2	Piacenza.....1
Inter.....2	Roma.....0
Juventus.....1	Bari.....1
Padova.....3	Atalanta.....2
Parma.....4	Cagliari.....0
Sampdoria.....2	Vicenza.....2
Udinese.....3	Napoli.....2
Lazio.....1	Torino.....1

SERIE B

Ancona.....1	Palermo.....0
Avellino.....0	Chievo V.....0
Bologna.....3	Cosenza.....2
Brescia.....0	Cesena.....0
F. Andria.....4	Genoa.....0
Foggia.....0	Lucchese.....0
Reggina.....2	Reggiana.....0
Salernitana.....0	Pescara.....2
Venezia.....1	Pistoiese.....0
Verona.....0	Perugia.....0

Basement dweller holds glamour leader

AC Milan, badly missing the finishing power of Liberia's George Weah, struggled to a 0-0 draw with lowly Cremonese last Sunday, allowing second-placed Fiorentina to cut its lead in the Italian league to a point.

With European footballer of the year Weah absent on African Nations' Cup duty, Milan's front-line trio of Dejan Savicevic, Roberto Baggio and Marco Simone rarely looked like breaking down the Cremonese defence.

Fiorentina took full advantage with a 2-1 win at home to Piacenza thanks to first-half goals from Anselmo Robbiati, his third in three matches, and Francesco Baiano.

At the halfway stage of the Italian championship, Milan is first with 34 points from 17 matches. Fiorentina is a point adrift on 33.

Parma, third on 31 points, revived its title hopes with an impressive 4-0 win over Cagliari — their first in four matches.

Roberto Mussi scored Parma's opener with a perfectly judged lob over goalkeeper Valerio Fiori in the 17th minute.

The home side added three more goals in the second half despite having defender Luigi Apolloni sent off in the 56th minute for his second bookable offence.

Champions Juventus, itself reduced to ten men by the first-half dismissal of Pietro Vierchowod, needed a 41st minute penalty from Fabrizio Ravanelli to salvage a 1-1 draw at home to Bari.

Serie A's top scorer Igor Protti had given the visitors a shock ninth minute lead with his 13th goal of the season.

Marco Branca struck twice against his former club Roma to give Internazionale a morale-boosting 2-0 victory after a run of three defeats in four matches.

MILAN STRUGGLE

Without Weah, Milan turned in a performance disturbingly reminiscent of their disappointing 1994/95 season when they lacked a frontline target man.

The diminutive Simone and Savicevic struggled to impose themselves on Cremonese's defence and only Baggio, back to his inspired best, looked capable of making up for Weah's absence.

Cremonese goalkeeper Luigi Turci was in superb form, twice denying Baggio in the opening 45 minutes with fine reflex saves.



Javier Zanetti: Provided cross for Marco Branca's first goal.

As Milan struggled, Cremonese grew in confidence and were unlucky not to claim all three points when only a goal-line save by Sebastiano Rossi denied Andrea Tentoni in the 80th minute.

FIorentina's HOME RECORD

In sharp contrast, Fiorentina's prolific frontline has found the net in 30 consecutive home matches, a record stretching over 21 months.

The victory over Piacenza was inspired by playmaker Robbiati, who was out of favour with coach Claudio Ranieri earlier in the season.

Robbiati struck the opener in the 28th minute and, three minutes after Francesco Turrini had equalised against the run of

play in the 35th minute, laid on Baiano's winner with a pinpoint cross from the right.

PARMA CHEERED OFF

Snowballed by their own fans following last week's 2-2 draw at Torino, Parma left the pitch to applause after achieving much of their win over Cagliari with 10 men.

Two second-half goals from Alberto Di Chiara and an own goal by Aldo Fincano all came after the dismissal of Apolloni.

JUVE STRUGGLE

The latest instalment in Juventus's topsy-turvy season prompted club president Umberto Agnelli to admit "this side is not

good enough for the championship".

Until Ravanelli's penalty levelled the scores, Bari's lethal counter-attack looked worthy of more than the irrepressible Protti's ninth-minute opener. It took a brave save by Angelo Peruzzi to deny Protti again in the 20th minute while it took a professional foul by Vierchowod to stop the striker in the 38th.

BRANCA SCORES TWICE

Inter's Branca took just 17 minutes to claim revenge on Roma for discarding him after just three months of the season.

The much-travelled striker, a veteran of five first division clubs, met Javier Zanetti's cross with

a powerful header past former team mate Giovanni Cervone for Inter's opener.

Not satisfied, Branca made Roma pay for a series of squandered chances and scored again in the 66th minute, his eighth goal of the season.

OTHER MATCHES

Lazio, meanwhile, failed to make the brilliant win it needed to back up its recent ambitions.

Udinese was able to move above the middle of the list by beating Naples, while Padova reinforced its chances of remaining in the division while pushing the once high-ranked Atalanta further down.

Real Madrid to sign Suker

Highly-rated Croatian striker Davor Suker (right) looks set to join Real Madrid after Bayern Munich withdrew from the bidding for the Sevilla player.

Bayern vice-president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge was last Thursday reported to have said his club was no longer interested in buying Suker.

The deal probably will be finalised once Sevilla decides which three Real players it wants in addition to the \$A6.86 million in cash offered for the forward.

Suker is set to replace Chilean international Ivan Zamorano, who has not renewed his contract with Real. Suker's goals have played a key part in Croatia's rapid rise to international prominence and salvaged Sevilla's UEFA Cup campaign last year on several occasions.



Heinrich goes to Borussia Dortmund

German champion Borussia Dortmund last Thursday agreed to sign Freiburg's unsettled midfielder Joerg Heinrich for a sum believed to be \$A2.81 million.

Heinrich gained his first and only international cap after helping promoted Freiburg to a shock third place in the Bundesliga last season.

But his form has declined since coach Volker Finke blocked a transfer to Dortmund at the start of this season.

Papin wanted by Newcastle



Bayern Munich said last Thursday it had turned down an approach by English league leader Newcastle for its French international striker Jean-Pierre Papin (above).

"Papin is staying with us until the end of the season," a Bayern spokesman said.

The French daily *L'Equipe* reported that Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan had contacted the German club last week through an agent but had

not yet made a concrete offer.

It said Papin, the 1991 European Player of the Year, was unhappy at Bayern where he has been unable to claim a regular first team place this season.

However, Papin will be available at the end of the season for nothing, as Bayern supremo Franz Beckenbauer has told him that his contract, which expires then, will not be renewed.

Matthaus honoured by Maradona lure

Argentine star Diego Maradona wants to lure German record-breaking international defender Lothar Matthaus (right) to his Argentine club Boca Juniors from Bayern Munich, the magazine *Sport-Bild* said.

But Matthaus suggested he would prefer to play out his career with the 13-times German champion and Boca Juniors coach Carlos Bilardo told Argentina's *Telam* news agency that the German was not part of his plans.

"It wouldn't be bad if I could play with him again at the end of my career," Maradona was quoted as saying.

Matthaus, Bayern's 34-year-old captain who reinvigorated the side when he returned in November from a year out with a ruptured Achilles tendon, said: "It sounds interesting. I'm honoured that Diego Maradona has thought of me."

But he said he was more inclined to fulfil his contract at Bayern which runs until 1997.



CASHING IN ON BOSMAN

English players were urged last Thursday to sign with a team of legal experts promising them greater rewards following the landmark Bosman freedom-of-contract case.

A London-based firm, which represents Wimbledon captain Vinnie Jones, is planning a new organisation called The Players Out of Contract Association (POCA), designed to extract maximum benefit for the members they aim to recruit.

More than 30 players from clubs in London and the south attended the teach-in when legal experts explained players' new rights.

POCA, which insists it can help the players more than their own union, the Professional Footballers' Association, is to hold another meeting later this month with Northern-based professionals.

Lawyer Jonathan Ebsworth said: "Players have been left behind before when new money came into the game and they should not risk letting it happen again."

"The Bosman ruling opens the way to more significant benefits for all players and they owe it to themselves and their families to give it a try."

Two minute game proves nothing

Portuguese clubs Sporting and Chaves played before a handful of fans for just over two minutes last Thursday to complete a match suspended 12 days ago.

But the final whistle did not end the controversy over the league game left unfinished because of a power cut.

The 145 seconds of play brought no goals and the game ended in a 1-1 draw.

Both sides claimed that they should have been awarded the full points for the suspended match, charging the other with breaking rules.

Sporting had to fit in the 1,000-km round trip to the northern town of Chaves between a Portuguese Cup tie at home to Boavista on Wednesday and a vital championship game with league leaders Porto, also at home, last Saturday.

The draw kept Sporting in second place in the league, five points behind champion Porto.

Rangers bid for Jardel

Brazilian striker Jardel flew into Glasgow last Wednesday to discuss a possible transfer to Scottish champions Rangers.

The 22-year-old Jardel was due to hold talks at Ibrox on a move from Brazilian champion Gremio for a fee of between \$A4.95 and \$A6.21 million.

But Rangers boss Walter Smith said any transfer could be delayed as Jardel needed to acquire a Portuguese passport to play in Scotland.

Only 10 players from outside the European Union are given work permits to play in Scotland and all those places are filled at the moment.

FIFA

WORLD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

AC Milan's striker George Weah completed a unique hat-trick of soccer awards last week when he was named as FIFA's world player of the year at a ceremony in Milan.

Weah won 170 points in a poll of 100 national team coaches, ahead of his Milan team mate Paolo Maldini on 80. Germany captain Jurgen Klinsmann, who plays for Bayern Munich, finished third with 58 points.

The recognition rounded off an extraordinary year for Weah, acclaimed as "King George" in Italy and already voted European and African player of the year, who joined Milan this season from Paris St Germain.

Strangely, the 29-year-old has yet to win any major international club honour in his



career.

As FIFA president Joao Havelange looked on, Weah surprised the celebrity audience by summoning Arsene Wenger, his former coach at Monaco, on to the stage and offered him the box containing his medal.

"I want you all to

know I love a lot of people, but a good man has to be rewarded. This is the man," he said.

"When I came to Europe, you were like a father to me. You told me 'George, work hard and you're going to be a good player'. I followed his example,

he made me a good man.

"Thus is for me, but I want you to have it. You deserve it more than me," he told Wenger, his first coach in Europe after he was signed from Tonnerre Yaounde of Cameroon.

Voting details released by FIFA showed that Weah was not a unanimous first choice, with several top coaches ignoring his claims for the title.

England's Terry Venables picked Italy's Roberto Baggio, while Italy's Arrigo Sacchi opted for Maldini. Brazil's coach Mario Zagalo went for compatriot Bebeto.

Weah, the first African player to win the FIFA award, followed in the footsteps of Germany's Lothar Matthaus who announced the 1995 winner, Dutchman Marco Van Basten, Roberto Baggio and Brazil's Romario.

The striker, shortly to lead Liberia in the African Nations' Cup finals, was also named African player of the year at the ceremony.

World Cup holders Brazil were voted team of the year ahead of 1990 champions Germany.

Jamaica, who moved from 96th to 40th in the FIFA rankings, were rewarded as the most improved national team.

Former Valencien player Jacques Glassmann, the man who blew the whistle on the Marseille bribery scandal in 1992, won the FIFA fair play award and was handed a cheque for 10,000 Swiss Francs (\$A11,300).

The Gazzetta dello Sport newspaper gave veteran AC Milan defender Franco Baresi, in his 19th season at the club, a career achievement award and named Juventus striker Alessandro del Piero as the best emerging youngster.

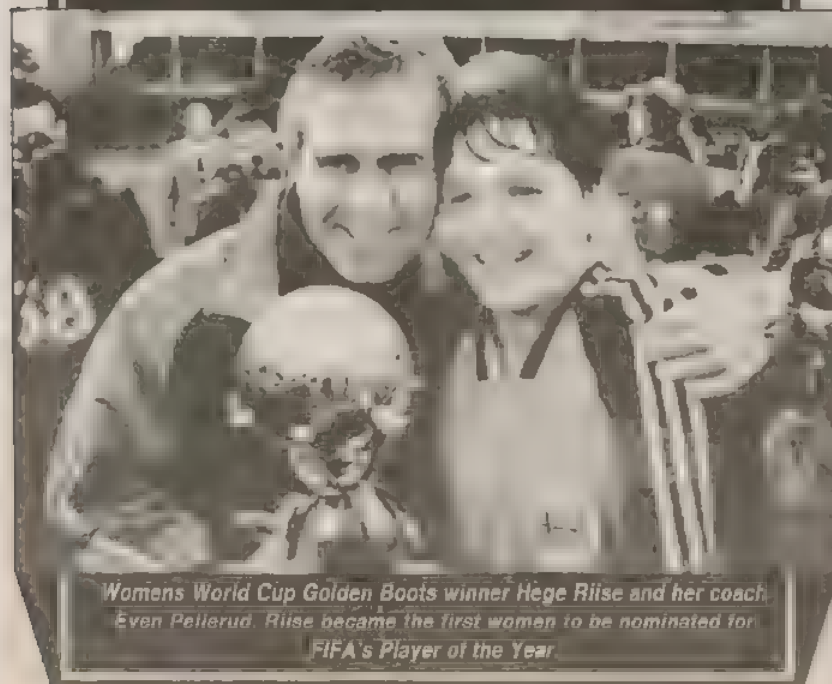


Women nominated by Norwegian

Norwegian coach Egil Olsen caused the biggest surprise at FIFA's player of the year awards ceremony when it was revealed he had voted for a female compatriot as one of his three nominations.

FIFA statistics published last week showed that Olsen had named Hege Riise, winner of the Golden Boot award at the Women's World Cup in Sweden last year, as his third choice after Russia's Ilya Tsymlar and Chilean Ivan Zamorano. It was the first time a woman had been nominated.

Egil Olsen, a coach of great culture, deserves a loud round of applause for the intelligence and originality of his vote," commented the Gazzetta dello Sport newspaper.



Women's World Cup Golden Boots winner Hege Riise and her coach Egil Olsen. Riise became the first woman to be nominated for FIFA's Player of the Year.

Dragan Stojkovic Yugoslavia's world great — almost

Few will argue that Yugoslavia's Dragan 'Pixie' Stojkovic was a star of the Italia '90 World Cup.

The Red Star player guided his country to the quarter finals of the World Cup where they lost a penalty shoot out to Argentina although ironically it was Stojkovic who missed a penalty.

Before this match he single handedly beat Spain with his two goals in a 2-0 victory.

The free-kick he scored in that match is regarded as one of the best free kicks of all time and is always featured in best goal videos.

With the World Cup a disappointment Stojkovic sought greener pastures and he went to France to play with Marseille.

His time with Marseille has been called 'the lost years' where he spent more time injured than playing.

In 1991 he came on as a substitute for Marseille but did little as his new team lost to his old club Red Star in the European Cup.

This would hurt him the

most as it was he who was the number one at Red Star before the previous year.

Red Star was led to victory by his understudy — Robert Prosinecki.

Marseille grew frustrated with Stojkovic and sold him to Verona in Italy.

Italy was the country where Stojkovic produced his best form in 1990 but now in 1992 he couldn't do the same.

He fell out of favour at Verona too and was sent back to Marseille.

Age was catching up with him so he put in some good performances for his club but soon lost his spot in the team to Germany's Rudi Voeller and Croatia's Alen Boksic.

Just before he turned 30, Stojkovic made the move to J-League club Nagoya Grampus 8. When this happened Marseille won the European Cup in 1993.

In Japan he was a hero overnight as crazy Japanese fans grew to love what he could do with the football.

Stojkovic now knew that playing in Japan would mean the end of European

football and therefore probably the end of his unlucky career.

Just when he thought the bad times were behind him AC Milan won the Champions Cup in 1994 led by fellow Yugoslav Dejan Savicevic and Croatian Zvonimir Boban.

For Savicevic it was his second European Cup and Stojkovic who was always regarded as streets ahead of Savicevic at Red Star, had won none.

Stojkovic regarded Boban as one of the best young players in Yugoslavia and to his surprise this youngster beat him to Euro glory as well.

For Stojkovic his European career was now over with nothing to show for it while his former teammates Jugovic Mihajlovic, Pancev, Prosinecki, Boksic, Boban and Savicevic were in the history books as winners of the European Cup.

Stojkovic and everyone in the former Yugoslavia knew that he was better than any of these players yet his career was plagued with misfortune and no



Dragan Stojkovic: Seen in action but he has no silverware to show for his abilities.

silverware.

In the last couple of years Dragan Stojkovic had the honour of representing the

World team for the third time in his career.

Wearing the number 10 jersey he represented The

Rest of the World against the Pan American All Stars for a charity (Kobe Earthquake Appeal) and rubbed

shoulders with some of the greats such as Massaro, Buchwald, Protason and Zinho.

Croatian Corner

BY JOHN VISKOVICH

THE MAGNIFICENT XI

The following players are favourite to represent Croatia at Euro '96.

1 Tomislav Ivkovic: Belenses (Portugal). A full international for the former Yugoslavia. Goalkeeper in the World Cup '90 in Italy. Well known for his penalty saves including two from Maradona.

Previously played for Sporting Lisbon and Dinamo Zagreb. He should take over from Croatian based goalkeeper Gabric and Ladac.

2 Miladen Mladenovic: Casino Salzburg (Austria) midfielder who has been converted into the right back position. A real workhorse who should be able to keep his place in the team.

He is now set to join Croatia Zagreb which is one of his old clubs.

3 Robert Jarni: Real Betis (Spain). A full international for the former Yugoslavia, played in the World Cup in 1990. A World Cup winner at junior level in 1987.

A Serie A Championship winner with Juventus in 1994/95, previously played for Hajduk, Bari, Torino, Juventus before linking up with Betis this season.

He is the club's second best scorer with 11 goals in all competitions.



Slaven Bilic: Defensive midfielder moving to West Ham.

4 IGOR STIMAC: Derby County (England). Started in the World Youth Championship in 1987 which the former Yugoslavia won. Took Hajduk Split to the quarter finals of the European Cup in 1995.

Has inspired the English midlands club who sit on top of the table in the First Division.

5 NIKOLA JERKAN: Real Oviedo (Spain). Has played for Real Oviedo

for over four seasons. Rated very highly and his former coach Radomir Antic says he is one of the best defenders in Spain.

Former Hajduk Split defender who has Zvonimir Soldo (Cro Zagreb), Mirsad Hibic (Hajduk), Sasa Person (Cannes), and Sead Halilovic (Real Valladolid) all wanting him to make a mistake so they get a chance in the No.5 shirt of Croatia.

6 SLAVEN BILIC: Karlsruhe (Germany). The former captain of the German side is another squad member from Yugoslavia World Youth Championship win in 1987.

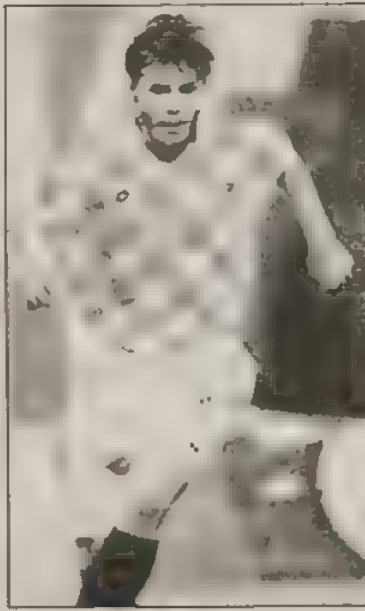
A regular for Croatia and will be linking up with West Ham in the not to distant future. Rayo Vallecano's (Spain), Stipe Andrijasevic and Vitesse Arnhem's (Holland), Ante Mise are gunning for his No.6 jersey should he make a mistake.

7 MARIO STANIC: Club Brugge (Belgium). At only 22 the youngest player in the first 11. A former Velez Dinamo Zagreb, Sporting Gijon and Benfica player who this season linked up with Club Brugge.

He scored five goals on debut for Club Brugge. The midfielder is already top scorer in Belgium.

Should keep Aljosa Asanovic (Rayo Valladolid), Goran Vulevic (Barcelona), Nenad Pralija (Hajduk) and Jusko Jeletic (Seville) out this team.

8 ROBERT PROSINECKI: Barcelona (Spain). Captain and World Youth Championship winner in 1987 where he



Zvonimir Boban: Star midfielder at AC Milan.

was named the best player. Has won many awards including a third placing in the European player of the year in 1991.

Has won the Champion Cup with Red Star in 1991 where he starred with some spectacular goals.

A Dinamo Zagreb Junior who has no threat from anyone for his spot in the first 11. World Cup member in 1990 for Yugoslavia.

9 DAVOR SUKER: Seville (Spain). Top scorer in the World Youth Championships in 1987 and winner of the world title. Finishes in top three in Spain every year as top striker.

Top striker in European qualifiers in 1995. He can really score the goals when needed. World Cup member for Yugoslavia in 1990 Italy.

10 ZVONIMIR BOBAN: AC Milan (Italy). World Youth Championship winner in 1987 and runner-up to Prosinecki as best player. Has been a star for Milan since 1992.

Has won the Champions Cup in 1994 with Milan. Has a good understanding with Prosinecki as they played plenty of junior football together, also has good partnership with Suker who played with him at Dinamo Zagreb in the late 80s.

11 ALLEN BOKSIC: Lazio (Italy). A World Youth Championships winner in 1987 even when he was three years younger than anyone in the squad.

Top scorer in France in 1993 and European Cup Winner in 1993. Failing to score lately which has led to a host of no less than 10 Croats wanting his No.11 shirt.

They are Robert Spehar (Club Brugge), Ivica Morar (E. Frankfurt), Igor Pamic (Osdek), Goran Vlaovic (Padova), Veldin Karic (Torino), Adrian Kozniku (Cannes), Igor Cvitanovic (Cro Zagreb), Milan Rapalic (Hajduk), Tomislav Erceg (Lugano), Zoran Ban (Belenses), Ivica Vastic (Austria).

News From Around The GL

BE

WERDER BREMEN SACK COACH AFTER POOR PERFORMANCE

Werder Bremen, last season's championship runner-up but now struggling near the bottom of the German Bundesliga standings, fired coach Aad de Mos last week.

De Mos, 48, lasted half a season after coming to Bremen to replace long-time coach Otto Rehagel.

Rehagel, who guided Bremen to two Bundesliga titles and lost last season's race with Borussia Dortmund in the last round, left to coach Bayern Munich.

Under de Mos, Bremen finished the first half of the Bundesliga season in 14th place in the 18-team league after a run of 11 games without a win.

De Mos' coaching career in the Netherlands and Belgium included stops at Ajax Amsterdam, Mechelen, Anderlecht and PSV Eindhoven, which ousted Bremen from this season's UEFA Cup.

Karl-Heinz Kamp, a former Werder player who served as assistant to de Mos, will become interim coach.

COACH TAKES LEGAL ACTION

Aad de Mos, the sacked coach of Bundesliga side Werder Bremen, secured a court injunction last Wednesday against a news magazine which printed alleged derogatory comments that triggered his dismissal.

The injunction forces Der Spiegel to print in its next issue a counter-claim by the Dutch coach to the magazine's report that he had told a Belgian journalist Bremen would never achieve anything.

De Mos denies having made the comment. His lawyer Mathias Prinz said he would send the injunction to the club and try to have de Mos, whose contract was scheduled to run until 1997, reinstated.

The club languishing at the season's half-way mark after finishing last season as runner-up - had insisted De Mos should take legal action over the report before the start of a training session.

The former PSV Eindhoven coach failed to do so and the board sacked him later.

LINESMAN STRUCK BY SNOWBALLS

Italian Serie A club Piacenza was fined \$A16,200 and cautioned last Wednesday after fans pelted a linesman with snowballs.

The sporting judge's report said fans lobbed hundreds of snowballs at the linesman, who was hit in several places, during a 2-0 league loss to Udinese.

League rival Atalanta was fined \$A12,100 after fans threw "objects and small stones" at the referee and a firecracker at the Juventus goal during a 1-0 home loss on January 7. The referee was not hit by the objects.

CLASH OF HEADS PUTS MANCINI OUT

Sampdoria striker Roberto Mancini, who suffered a head injury in a collision with European player of the year George Weah on January 7, had surgery last week and will be out of action for up to six weeks.

A spokeswoman for the club said that Mancini underwent an operation in Genoa last Wednesday. "He'll be out for up to a month

and a half," she said.

Mancini, a Sampdoria stalwart who has been at the Serie A club since 1982, was carried off the pitch on a stretcher five minutes from the finish of the rainswept league clash against leaders AC Milan at San Siro. Milan won 3-0.

The spokeswoman said the 31-year-old player had fractured his left eye socket in the accident.

Sampdoria is currently 12th in the 18-club Serie A.

STRUGGLERS HOLD PSG TO A DRAW

Paris St Germain's progress towards the French league title was surprisingly held up last Wednesday by lowly Gueugnon in a 1-1 draw at the Parc des Princes.

The Parisians seemed to have the match in hand after Youri Djorkaeff gave them the lead in the 29th minute with a brilliant solo goal.

But Gueugnon, which had gone into the brief mid-winter break at the bottom of the 20-strong table, fought back to equalise a minute before halftime thanks to Philippe Brunel.



Johan Cruyff: Days numbered at Barcelona?

Although PSG had easily the better of the game, its much-vaunted strike force looked strangely jaded after the festive pause and failed to find the net.

But the Parisians remained six points clear at the top of the table as nearest rival Lens was held to a 0-0 draw in Lyons.

Metz moved up to third, level with Lens on points, after a 2-1 home win over Le Havre thanks to a winner from Cyrille Pouget five minutes from the final whistle.

Robert Pires gave Metz the lead after 39 minutes but Le Havre came back when Nicolas Huysman equalised from a direct free-kick in the 58th minute.

The evening's program turned out wet and disappointing with the Nice v Nantes clash on the Riviera rained off and only 10 goals scored in eight games.

But it was encouraging for some teams, including Gueugnon, which moved above Martigues, beaten 4-0 at home to Monaco.

Cannes also moved out of the relegation zone with a 2-0 away win over fellow struggler Lille.

There were no league matches last weekend because of the French Cup (see results, page 24).

GOALKEEPER FACES THREE YEAR BAN

Monaco and French international goalkeeper Fabien Barthez will appear before a French Football Federation (FFF) hearing today after testing positive for banned substances (drugs) following a match last October.

Barthez, 24, will go

"Le Pen for President". Jean-Marie Le Pen is the right-wing leader of the French National Front.

Paris Saint German fans are infamous for their right-wing extremism and are regarded as the most violent crowd in France.

CRUYFF COULD BE ON OUTER

Barcelona chairman Jose Luis Nunez hinted Wednesday that Johan Cruyff's days as the soccer club's coach could be numbered.

Barcelona is languishing in fourth place in the Spanish First Division, 10 points adrift of leader Atletico Madrid.

"Events are giving me justification to take a decision but I can't leave any room for doubt," Nunez was quoted as saying by the daily el Periodico.

"If he (Cruyff) had fewer years at the club I would have acted quickly and without hesitation."

He faces a ban of up to three years.

FANS SHOW LACK OF RESPECT

Some Paris Saint Germain fans whistled during a minute's silence for former French President Francois Mitterrand before last Wednesday night's First Division match against Gueugnon.

Most of the 20,000 fans at the Parc des Princes stadium respected the silence for Mitterrand, who died on Monday January 8.

But fans in the Boulogne stand whistles and shouted

Nunez said the club had invested \$A21.58 million in new players this season, including Bosnian striker Meho Kodro and Portuguese midfielder Luis Figo, but had not found any consistent form.

However, Cruyff, in his eighth season at Barcelona, still has backers at the club.

Deputy chairman Joan Gaspart told a local radio station that Nunez's message was that there was still time to rectify mistakes.

Cruyff's successes include four league titles and the club's first European Cup triumph in 1992.



Luis Figo: Joined Barcelona this season.

SPAIN PRODUCES SHOCKS

Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff did little to remove the question marks over his future last Wednesday after his team was held to a 0-0 draw by Second Division Hercules in the first leg of the fourth round of the Spanish Cup.

Vistor Barcelona was at times outplayed by Hercules, which leads the second division, to end one of Cruyff's worst weeks in years.

For Barcelona and other top clubs it was the first outing in the Cup this season because of a bye given to teams that have qualified to play in European competitions.

In other matches, holder Deportivo Coruna was saved from a home loss by a second-half penalty from Brazilian midfielder Donato, after Juan Antonio Pizzi had put Tenerife ahead in the 36th minute, also from the penalty spot.

Third division giant-killer Numancia took a step towards knocking out its third-consecutive first division opponent with a 2-1 home win over Sporting Gijon.

Cup specialist Athletic Bilbao lost 3-2 at home to 1994 winner Zaragoza, for whom Fernando Morientes scored a hat-trick. To add injury to insult, the 23-times winner also saw international playmaker Julen Guerrero limp off.

Sevilla dominated Compostela, but let in a stoppage time goal and its 2-1 win might not be enough to survive the second leg away to the club with the best home record in the Spanish first division.

Runaway league-leader Atletico Madrid squandered numerous chances, but in the end was lucky to hang on for a 1-1 draw in its home tie with Real Betis.

SCANDAL AT REAL MADRID

The Spanish interior ministry fined Real Madrid \$A110,000 for allowing in too many spectators at last April's match in the Bernabeu Stadium against Zaragoza.

A ministry spokesman said Real had committed a "serious mistake" in allowing the fans inside. A policeman eventually closed the gates after judging the ground was becoming dangerously over full.

Some supporters managed to get forged tickets for the clash, whereas others found that the seats they had paid for were already taken.

Real has two months to appeal against the fine.



Donato: Second half penalty saved La Coruna.

WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

— January 13 —

Bolton 1 (McGinlay 44th pen) Wimbledon 0.
Half-time 1-0. Attendance: 16,216
Everton 1 (Unsworth 36th pen) Chelsea 1
(Spencer 20th) 1-1. 34,968
Leeds 2 (Brolin 25th, 63rd) West Ham 0. 1-0.
20,658
Manchester United 0 Aston Villa 0. 42,667
Middlesbrough 2 (Juninho 38th, Stamp 56th)
Arsenal 3 (Merson 7th, Platt 59th, Helder
62nd) 1-1. 29,359
Nottingham Forest 1 (Cooper 44th) Southamp-
ton 0. 1-0. 23,321
Queen's Park Rangers 0 Blackburn 1 (Shearer
77th) 0-0. 13,957
Sheffield Wednesday 1 (Kovacevic 7th) Liver-
pool 1 (Rush 87th) 1-0. 32,747
Tottenham 1 (Armstrong 65th) Manchester
City 0. 0-0. 31,438.
Coventry 0 Newcastle 0. 1-1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Crystal Palace 1 Ipswich 1
Derby 3 Reading 0
Luton 3 Southend 1
Millwall 1 Port Vale 2
Oldham 0 Barnsley 1
Portsmouth 3 Grimsby 1
Stoke 1 Leicester 0
Tranmere 1 Sheffield Utd 1
Watford 0 Huddersfield 1
West Bromwich 0 Wolverhampton 0
Birmingham 3 Charlton 4
Sunderland 0 Norwich 1

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

Bradford 1 Brighton 3
Bristol City 3 Crewe 2
Bury 4 Stockport 3
Carlisle 1 Chesterfield 1
Hull 1 Rotherham 4
Oxford 2 Brentford 1
Peterborough 4 Bournemouth 5
Swansea 2 Bristol Rovers 2
Walsall 3 Shrewsbury 0
Wrexham 1 Blackpool 1
Wycombe 1 Notts County 1
York 2 Swindon 0

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Chester 1 Bury 1
Colchester 3 Barnet 2
Doncaster 1 Torquay 0
Exeter 0 Hartlepool 0
Fulham 1 Scarborough 0
Gillingham 2 Lincoln 0
Hereford 5 Cambridge 2
Leyton Orient 1 Mansfield 0
Northampton 1 Cardiff 0
Preston 3 Plymouth 2
Rochdale 1 Darlington 2
Scunthorpe 3 Wigan 1

LEADING GOALSCORERS

PREMIER LEAGUE

26 - Alan Shearer (Blackburn)
23 - Les Ferdinand (Newcastle)
21 - Robbie Fowler (Liverpool)
18 - Ian Wright (Arsenal)
17 - Teddy Sheringham (Tottenham)
15 - Tony Yeboah (Leeds)

DIVISION ONE

16 - John Aldridge (Tranmere)
14 - Iwan Roberts (Leicester)
Don Goodman (Wolverhampton)
13 - Dean Sturridge (Derby)
12 - Alex Mathie (Ipswich)
Marco Gabbiadini (Derby)
Andy Booth (Huddersfield)
Andy Hunt (West Bromwich)

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

16 - Gordon Durie (Rangers)
Pierre Van Hooydonk (Celtic)
14 - Ally McCoist (Rangers)
12 - John Collins (Celtic)
10 - Darren Jackson (Hibernian)
Billy Dodds (Aberdeen)
9 - John Robertson (Hearts)

Pools panel assessed:

Exeter v Hartlepool (home win)
Berwick v Forfar (no score draw)
East Fife v Queen of the South (home win).

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

Hearts 2 Falkirk 1
Kilmarnock 3 Hibernian 2
Motherwell 0 Partick 2
Rangers 4 Raith 0
Aberdeen 1 Celtic 2

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

Dumbarton 1 Airdrieonians 2
Dundee Utd 2 St Mirren 1
Dunfermline 4 Clydebank 3
Greenock Morton 1 Dundee 0
Hamilton 2 St Johnstone 1

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

Berwick 0 P Forfar 0
Clyde 3 Stenhousemuir 0
East Fife 0 P Queen of the South 0
Montrose 0 Ayr 1
Stranraer 2 Stirling 2

SCOTTISH DIVISION THREE

Alloa 0 Caledonian 2
Arbroath 2 East Stirling 1
Livingston 0 Albion 1
Queen's Park 0 Brechin 0
Ross County 4 Cowdenbeath 1

SCOTTISH F.A. CUP SECOND ROUND

REPLAYS

Annan 1 Berwick 2
(Berwick at home to Dundee Utd in third round)
East Fife 2 Spartans 1
(East Fife away to Caledonian)
Fraserburgh 1 Whitehill 2
(Whitehill at home to Celtic)
Keith 2 Deveronvale 0
(Keith at home to Rangers)

NORTHERN IRELAND PREMIER DIVISION

Ards 1 Glenavon 2
Glenrوران 3 Bangor 0
Linfield 0 Crusaders 1
Portadown 4 Cliftonville 1

ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP

QUARTER-FINAL

— January 10 —

Arsenal 2 (Wright 44th, 89th mins) Newcastle
0. Half-time 1-0. Attendance: 37,857
Aston Villa 1 (Johnson 66th) Wolverhampton
0. 0-0. 39,277
Leeds 2 (Masinga 35th, Speed 44th) Reading 1
(Quinn 17th). 2-1.
Norwich 1 (Fleck 69th) Birmingham 1 (Francis
64th). 0-0. 13,028

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

— January 10 —

Auxerre 1 Montpellier 0
Bastia 0 St Etienne 0
Bordeaux 2 Guingamp 0
Lille 0 Cannes 0
Lyon 0 Lens 0
Metz 2 Le Havre 1
Paris St Germain 1 Queugnon 1
Rennes 0 Strasbourg 0
Martignes 0 Monaco 4
Postponed: Nice v Nantes, waterlogged pitch

TABLE

Paris St Germain	23	13	8	2	45	18	47
Lens	23	10	11	2	26	14	41
Metz	23	11	8	4	22	15	41
Auxerre	23	12	3	8	39	23	39
Monaco	23	10	6	7	35	27	36
Nantes	22	9	9	4	26	22	36
Bastia	23	10	5	8	33	29	35
Strasbourg	23	8	9	6	31	22	33
Guingamp	23	8	9	6	17	17	33
Rennes	23	8	8	7	25	26	32
Montpellier	23	8	7	8	30	29	31
Nice	22	8	4	10	25	26	28
Le Havre	23	7	6	10	20	30	27
Lyon	23	5	11	7	23	26	26
St Etienne	23	5	10	8	27	35	25
Bordeaux	23	7	4	12	24	32	25
Cannes	23	6	5	12	26	36	23
Lille	23	4	8	11	16	31	20
Queugnon	23	3	10	10	15	29	19
Martignes	23	5	3	15	18	36	18

FRENCH CUP FIRST ROUNDS

— January 13 —

Lyon 0 Auxerre 1
Monaco 0 Lens 0
(Monaco qualified 1-0 after extra time)
Rennes 1 Nancy 2
Queugnon 1 Valence 2
Cannes 5 Perpignan 1
Niort 1 Guingamp 1
(2-2 after extra time. Niort qualified 7-6 on pens)
Paris St Germain 3 Chateauroux 1
Saint-Leu 0 Lille 1
Valenciennes 1 Strasbourg 1
(Strasbourg qualified 2-1 after extra time)
Brest 1 Nice 1
(1-1 after extra time. Nice qualified 4-3 on pens)
Chamay 1 Metz 3
La Fleche 1 Martignes 4
Pont-de-Roide 1 Bordeaux 4
Blenod 1 Bastia 0
Saint-Quentin 1 Nantes 7
Pacy-sur-Eure 1 Montpellier 2
Salbris 0 Le Havre 3
St Etienne 5 Saintes 0

CYPRUS' FIRST DIVISION

— January 8 —

APOEL 4 Omonia 2
Aris 2 Anorthosis 0
Apollon 0 Olympiakos 0
Paralimni 1 AEK 0
Alki 3 Ethnikos 3
Evaghoras 0 AEL 2
Salamina 4 Aradippou 1

TABLE

APOEL Nicosia	12	9	3	0	21	10	30
Omonia Nicosia	12	8	3	1	29	12	27
AEK Lamaca	12	8	1	3	21	12	25
Anorthosis F/gusta	12	5	5	2	21	14	20
Apollon Limassol	12	5	5	2	17	9	20
Paralimni	12	5	4	3	19	2	19
Alki Lamaca	12	5	4	3	23	21	19
Ethnikos Ahna	12	3	5	4	16	18	14
AEL Limassol	12	4	2	6	17	22	14
Aris Limassol	12	2	7	3	13	12	13
Salamina F/gusta	12	3	2	7	14	25	11
Evaghoras Paphos	12	1	4	7	10	25	7
Olympiakos Nicosia	12	1	3	8	6	17	6
Omonia Aradippou	12	0	2	10	11	39	2

PORTUGUESE FIRST DIVISION

Sporting 0 Porto 2
Tirsense 2 Farense 1
Guimaraes 4 Campomaiorense 0
Amadora 4 Braga 2
Gil Vicente 0 Leca 0
Chaves 1 Felgueiras 0
Maritimo 1 Uniao Leiria 0
Belenenses 1 Boavista 2
Salgueiros 4 Benfica 2

TABLE

Porto	18	15	3	0	48	3	48
Sporting	18	12	4	2	40	14	40
Benfica	18	11	4	3	30	18	37
Boavista	18	11	4	3	35	14	37
Maritimo	18	9	3	6	28	21	30
Salgueiros	18	5	11	2	21	18	26
Belenenses	18	7	5	6	25	17	26
Guimaraes	18	7	4	7	23	20	25
Braga	18	6	5	7	21	25	23
Felgueiras	18	5	7	6	20	20	22
Amadora	18	5	6	7	19	28	21
Uniao Leiria	18	6	2	10	18	34	20
Gil Vicente	18	4	6	8	16	25	18
Leca	18	4	4	10	13	28	16
Tirsense	18	3	6	9	14	32	15
Chaves	18	3	6	9	20	30	15
Farense	18	4	2	12	13	25	14
Campomaiorense	18	3	2	13	12	42	11

SPANISH CUP FOURTH-ROUND

— Midweek Matches —

Atletico Madrid 1 Real Betis 1
Athletic Bilbao 2 Zaragoza 3
Numancia 2 Sporting Gijon 1
Sevilla 2 Compostela 1
Celta 1 Valencia 1
Deportivo Coruna 1 Tenerife 1
Hercules 0 Barcelona 0
Espanyol 4 Real Madrid 1

SPANISH FIRST DIVISION

— January 14 —

Real Madrid 2 Zaragoza 2
Real Sociedad 2 Racing Santander 1
Salamanca 4 Sevilla 1
Compostela 2 Espanyol 1
Valencia 3 Celta Vigo 0
Rayo Vallecano 2 Athletic Bilbao 2
Real Oviedo 0 Merida 0
Tenerife 3 Sporting Gijon 0
Barcelona 1 Deportivo Coruna 1
Real Betis 3 Valladolid 0
Albacete 1 Atletico Madrid 1

TABLE

Atletico Madrid	21	15	4	2	39	10	49
Compostela	21	13	3	5	29	22	42
Espanyol	21	12	5	4	31	15	41
Barcelona	21	11	6	4	40	19	39
Valencia	21	11	3	7	34	26	36
Real Betis	21	8	10	3	31	23	34
Real Madrid	21	9	6	6	37	29	33
Deportivo Coruna	21	9	5	7	34	18	32
Tenerife	21	8	8	5	35	31	32
Athletic Bilbao	21	7	8	7	25	25	28
Celta Vigo	21	7	6	8	20	23	27
Real Sociedad	21	7	5	9	28	31	26
Zaragoza	21	6	7	8	20	27	25
Sporting Gijon	21	7	2	12	26	30	23
Oviedo	21	5	7	9	21	31	22
Sevilla	21	5	7	9	20	32	22
Salamanca	21	5	6	10	32	34	21
Albacete	21	5	6	10	32	43	21
Racing	21	5	6	10	21	39	21
Rayo Vallecano	21	5	5	11	23	38	20
Merida	21	3	10	8	17	28	19
Valladolid	21	2	8	11	24	39	14

GREEK FIRST DIVISION

— January 14 —

Apollon 2 Kalamata 1
Aris 1 Panathinaikos 0
Panathinaikos 4 OFI 0
Paniliakos 2 Ethnikos 2
PAOK 0 Edessaikos 1
Xanthi 1 Ionikos 0
Panionios 0 Iraklis 0
Olympiakos 3 Larissa 1
Athinaiikos 0 AEK 1

TABLE

Panathinaikos	16	13	2	1	35	9	41
AEK	16	13	1	2	44	11	40
Olympiakos	16	11	4	1	39	15	37
OFI	16	9	2	5	34	29	29
Paniliakos	16	6	5	5	25	22	23
Iraklis	16	6	4	6	21	23	22
Xanthi	16	6	4	6	20	23	22
Edessaikos	16	6	4	6	24	29	22
Aris	16	5	5	6	19	18	20
Apollon	16	5	4	7	23	24	19
Ionikos	16	5	4	7	21	24	19
Kalamata	16	4	6	6	23	29	18
Athinaiikos	16	5	2	9	14	24	17
Panathinaikos	16	5	2	9	15	27	17
Panionios	16	4	4	8	20	25	16
PAOK	16	4	6	6	17	20	15
Larissa	16	3	2	11	12	33	11
Ethikos	16	2	3	11	15	34	9

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

— January 14 —

Willem II Tilburg 1 Ajax Amsterdam 0
Volendam 0 Utrecht 1
Feyenoord 2 NAC Breda 2

TABLE

Ajax Amsterdam	19	17	1	1	62	7	52
PSV Eindhoven	18	14	2	2	61	11	44
Willem II Tilburg	19	8	8	3	39	22	32
Feyenoord Rotterdam	19	9	5	5	40	28	32
Heerenveen	19	8	8	3	32	29	32
Sparta Rotterdam	19	8	5	6	28	32	29
NAC Breda	18	6	8	4	28	16	26
Roda JC Kerkrade	19	6	8	5	20	21	26
Vitesse Arnhem	19	7	5	7	28	31	26
Twente Enschede	19	7	5	7	26	29	26
RKC Waalwijk	19	7	4	8	23	27	25
Groningen	19	6	7	6	25	30	25
Fortuna Sittard	19	4	6	9	14	34	18
De Graafschap	19	3	5	11	23	42	14
Volendam	19	3	5	11	16	38	14
Utrecht	19	3	5	11	15	37	14
NEC Nijmegen	19	3	5	11	18	46	14
QAE Deventer	19	2	6	11	22	40	12

1996 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

South Africa crush holders

Host South Africa made a dream start to the African Nations' Cup finals last Saturday with a 3-0 thrashing of twice winner Cameroon.

It was the biggest winning margin for South Africa in 34 internationals since its return from sporting isolation in 1992.

The crowd of over 70,000 erupted as the final whistle blew in the stadium, the first time the continent's premier soccer event has been staged in South Africa.

England-based striker Phil Masinga, who arrived here only 24 hours before the match, grabbed the opening goal after just 14 minutes, scoring from close range after evading the Cameroonian defence.

It was Masinga's record-equalling seventh goal for his country.

Striking partner Mark Williams added a second eight minutes from half-time after a scrappy goalmouth scramble as Cameroon failed to clear its lines.

South Africa, which launched wave after wave of attacks from the outset, added a superb third goal 10 minutes into the second-half.

John Moshoeu played a deft one-two with Leeds' striker Masinga, who back-heeled the

GROUP A
South Africa 3 beat Cameroon 0 (halftime 2-0)
Scorers: Phil Masinga (14), Mark Williams (37), John Moshoeu (55)
Halftime 2-0.
Attendance: 75,000

GROUP B
Zambia and Algeria drew 0-0
Attendance: 10,000

GROUP C
Ghana beat Ivory Coast 2-0 (halftime 1-0)
Scorers: Ghana - Anthony Yeboah (20th minute), Abedi Pele (70th minute).
Attendance: 8,000

ball into Moshoeu's path for a goal of arrogant quality.

Only French-based midfielder Marc-Vivien Foe impressed in a Cameroon side fielding six players from the squad at the 1994 World Cup finals.

Coach Jules Nyongha gambled by playing two teenagers - the uncapped Marie-Jose Tchango and Pierre Nlend Wome, who at 16-years-old became the youngest player to appear in a Nations' Cup finals match.

Wome was replaced before the end of the first-half and

Tchango shortly after the break.

President Nelson Mandela officially opened the tournament, saying: "The countdown is over. For the next three weeks soccer nations in Africa will bless our young democracy with the best display of skills this continent can offer."

Sports figures and politicians are hoping the event will achieve the same kind of racial reconciliation as the Rugby World Cup, which South Africa hosted and won in June last year.

Springbok captain Francois Pienaar went on to the field ahead of the match today with some of his rugby World Cup team-mates, carrying a banner proclaiming their support for the "Bafana Bafana" - the soccer boys.

Poet Mzwakhe Mbuli performed a song he had specially written for Bafana Bafana and the South African Air Force performed a flypast.

Four military helicopters trailing the flags of the 15 participating nations flew over the stadium.

More than 2,000 members of the security forces, including uniformed and plain-clothes policemen and soldiers, were on duty inside and outside the stadium.

GHANA'S FIRST WIN OVER IVORIANS



Abedi Pele: Sealed victory for Ghana.

European-based stars Tony Yeboah and Abedi Pele scored thrilling goals last Sunday to lead Ghana to a 2-0 victory over longtime rival Ivory Coast in their African Cup of Nations Group C opener in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

The victory, Ghana's first over its West African neighbour since 1970, avenged a penalty shootout loss to the Ivorians in the 1992 African Cup championship match and stamped the Ghanaians as one of the favourites to win the trophy this time around.

In the other first-round match, missed opportunities including shots off the goalposts by both sides, left Zambia and Algeria with a 0-0 draw in their Group B opener in Bloemfontein.

The three-week tournament involves 15 nations competing for the title of African champion. Defending champion Nigeria is boycotting due to a political dispute with host South Africa, leaving Group C with only three teams unlike four in the other groups.

Nigeria's first match, cancelled due to the boycott, would have been on Sunday night against Zaire.

With Nigeria out of the tournament, Ghana looked a solid favourite by controlling play against Ivory Coast and relying on the athletic prowess of Yeboah of Leeds United and Abedi Pele of Torino to carry the attack in a rugged match that produced three yellow cards.

Nigeria's claims refuted

The issue of sanctions against Nigeria, who pulled out of the African Nations Cup — did not arise at the 22nd congress of African confederation members.

The congress last week selected Zimbabwe to host the biennial Cup in 2000. President Issa Hayatou of

Cameroon was re-elected unopposed. Delegates voted to add Yaounde, the Cameroonian capital, as a second federation headquarters to Cairo, Egypt, to ease Hayatou's workload.

Nigeria has refused to send its team to South Africa, citing security concerns for the players. The real reason is thought

to be anger over President Nelson Mandela's call for sanctions against the Nigerian military regime for hanging nine dissidents.

In Lagos, Nigeria, the Tempo newspaper said that a security report presented to the Super Eagles on Tuesday claimed "incontrovertible evidence" indicating Nigerian pro-democracy groups planned

to kidnap the players in South Africa.

The authenticity of the report could not be verified, but South African officials have repeatedly guaranteed the players' security.

Goalkeeper Peter Rufai claimed after the meeting that the presentation swayed the squad, which had opposed the boycott.

Later Olise, who plays in the French league, said that all the European-based team members thought the boycott a mistake.

"There was never a time we backed the withdrawal," Olise said. "We could not have done that considering the huge personal and career loss which we will suffer by not going to South Africa."

AJAX LOSE TWICE IN THREE DAYS!

Ajax Amsterdam crashed to its first league defeat in 53 matches last Sunday, going down 1-0 away to Willem II Tilburg — the last side to beat it in the Dutch First Division back in May 1994.

Willem midfielder Henri van der Vegt scored the winner from a deflection in the 55th minute.

It was the world club champions' second loss in four days after going unbeaten in all competitions since September 1994. They fell 2-1 to Maccabi Haifa in a friendly in Israel last Thursday.

Ajax still lead the Dutch standings by eight points from second-placed PSV Eindhoven, who have a game in hand. Willem climbed to third, 20 points behind Ajax and level with Feyenoord Heerenveen.



STANDARD OF GOALS IMPRESSES SMITH

Veteran striker Ally McCoist (left) set a new Scottish League scoring record for Rangers as he put the champions on their way to a 4-0 win over Raith last Saturday.

McCoist gave Rangers a 1-0 lead after 21 minutes to lift him to 231 league goals for the club, beating Bob McPhail's Rangers record of 230 set in the 1920s and 30s.

Manager Walter Smith was delighted with his side's overall performance but reserved a special word of praise for Coist.

"It was a terrific goal by Ally and I'm really pleased with the way he's come back into things after a period on the sidelines," said Smith.

Rangers were 3-0 up at half-time thanks to McCoist and a Gordon Durie double which took

the former Tottenham and Chelsea striker's season tally to 16.

Smith added: "I was really pleased with our performance in the first half and by the terrific standard of goals."

But he insisted: "The most important thing at this stage of the season is winning."

The Ibrox boss revealed that Paul Gascoigne, withdrawn midway through the second half, had been suffering from 'flu but had insisted on playing. The England midfielder now starts a two-game suspension.

Elsewhere, Steve Fulton's second half winner kept Hearts on course for a UEFA Cup place with a 2-1 home win over Falkirk.

Fulton's 71st minute strike sealed Hearts' third win in a row to move them into third place and continued their revival after

slumping to bottom of the premier division earlier this season.

John Robertson put Hearts ahead after half an hour when he controlled a Neil Pointon cross on his chest before pushing the ball past Tony Parks. Falkirk drew level in the 64th minute when substitute Steve Kirk headed in from close range.

Kilmarnock produced an astonishing second-half comeback to claim all three points in a 3-2 win over Hibernian.

John Henry grabbed the winner in the final minute after Killie had looked dead and buried at half-time, when Hibs were 2-0 ahead.

Partick eased their relegation worries with a comfortable 2-0 victory over fellow strugglers Motherwell, who had substitute Billy Davies sent off in the final minute.

CONCACAF GOLD CUP

Brazil opened its Gold Cup campaign in Los Angeles with a comfortable 4-1 win over Canada.

The world champion led the Group B game 2-0 within seven minutes, Andre Luis scoring an individual goal and Caio, put away by Arilson, adding the second.

Canada, which beat Honduras 3-1 in its first outing, had to wait until the last quarter before Thomaz Radzinski pulled one back.

Leandro, who came on as a substitute after 75 minutes, restored Brazil's two-goal advantage just before the final whistle from a cross from the right.

GROUP A

Mexico beat St Vincent and the Grenadines 5-0 (halftime 2-0)

Scorers: Mexico — Luis Garcia (29th minute, 37th), Ricardo Pelaez (70th, 90th), Agustin Garcia (80th)
Attendance: 15,352

GROUP B

Brazil beat Canada 4-1 (halftime 3-0)

Scorers: Brazil - Andre Luis (3rd minute), Caio (6th), Savio (15th), Leandro (89th)
Canada - Tomasz Radzinski (66th)



SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART —



Pele quits his beloved Santos

Pele said last Wednesday that he was stepping down as a director of his former club Santos, less than a month after helping them to one of their most successful seasons of the past two decades.

Pele, who is also the Brazilian government's sports minister, said he was leaving because he did not have enough time for both jobs but also hinted that he was upset over the departure of coach Cabralzinho last week.

"It was very tiring spending three days a week in Brasilia and two here in Santos and I wasn't giving enough attention to my family," he said.

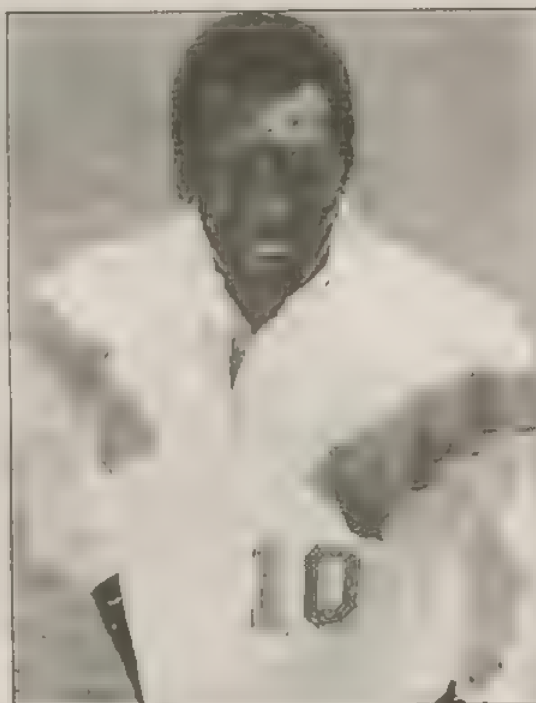
Referring to Cabralzinho's departure, he said: "In my opinion

there should have been more patience and more negotiating. It was a decision that was taken very quickly."

Santos was one of the world's great clubs during the 17 years that Pele played for it but sank into the doldrums after his departure in 1973. It has not won any title since 1984.

Pele, who used his prestige to effectively run the club, was credited with a new policy of getting rid of expensive players and signing promising youngsters for small fees instead.

Under Cabralzinho the team reached the final of last year's Brazilian championship before losing out to Botafogo and played some scintillating football on the way.



Offer for Tulio - Brazilian record

An unidentified Japanese club has offered \$A16.19 million for all-star forward Tulio (right), Botafogo's president said.

The deal would give Botafogo \$A9.44 million and Tulio \$A6.74 million, Carlos Augusto Montenegro said.

It would be the biggest transaction involving a Brazilian player.

The proposal from the Japanese team, which Montenegro would not name, called for a three-year contract and included a house, two cars and 12 round-trip air fares a year to Brazil.

Tulio's wife, Alessandra, told reporters it was "90 percent certain" he would accept.

Tulio was the leading scorer in the Brazilian national championship the past two seasons.

In 1995, he led Botafogo to the national title and earned a berth on the national team.

Last week, Japan's Verdy Kawasaki signed Tulio's team-mate Donizete to a three-year, \$A5.13 million contract.



Columbia head for Olympic qualifiers

Colombia will go to Argentina with the aim of earning one of the two South American places at the Atlanta Olympic Games.

Colombia will make their debut on February 18, in Mar del Plata. They play neighbours Venezuela in their first match. The other teams in the group are Ecuador, Chile and host nation Argentina.

Coach Pedro Sarmiento, who's making his international debut, said, "we are aware of the challenge and the responsibility, but we are very confident of qualifying for the Olympic Games."

"Our team is very young, with players of great talent and great futures."

Colombia will play several friendly internationals to reach the tournament in top form. On January 21 they will play against the Uruguayan U/23 side in Montevideo, two days later they meet Argentina in Buenos Aires, and on January 31 they face Italy in Miami.

The Colombia squad named by Sarmiento is:

Goalkeepers: Juan Mendoza (Deportivo Cali) and Calixto Chiquillo (Junior Barranquilla).

Defenders: Alberto Perez

(Deportivo Cali), Gerson Gonzalez, Orlegon and Arley Dinas (America), Gerardo Bedoya (Pereira), and Francisco Mosquera (Atletico Nacional).

Midfielders: Giovanny Hernandez and Franky Oviedo (America), Ancizar Valencia (Cristal Caldas), Jorge Bolano and Oswaldo McKenzie (Junior Barranquilla), Victor Malfa (Deportivo Cali), and Nixon Perea (Atletico Nacional).

Strikers: Ricardo Perez and Jairo Castillo (America), Juan Angel (Atletico Nacional), Hamilton Ricard (Deportivo Cali) and Alonso Aicibar (Cristal Caldas).

BILARDO'S ULTIMATUM TO CANIGGIA

Carlos Salvador Bilardo, the former coach of the 1986 Argentine World Cup winning side, began his work as coach of great club Boca Juniors, and immediately gave star striker Claudio Paul Caniggia (right) 48 hours to resume training with the team.

Caniggia is on holidays in Europe with his family after a traumatic year with Boca.

Meanwhile, Diego Armando Maradona who together with the Argentine president Carlos Menem launched the "Under the Sun without Drugs" campaign, aimed at helping the nation's young generation, flew with his family to the Mexican beach resort of Cancun where he will take a short

break from football.

Bilardo confirmed Maradona will be under a special training regime which has been accepted by his fellow players. Bilardo added that he will be happy to have Maradona in the team.

Unconfirmed sources from Buenos Aires linked German star Lothar Matthaus with Boca Juniors. According to journalistic sources, Bilardo had talks with Matthaus. The German star was very interested in playing alongside Maradona. Matthaus, who has been injured for almost eleven months, could end his brilliant career playing for the most popular club in Argentina if such rumours are confirmed.



briefs... briefs... briefs... briefs...

→ Ecuador will play all its South American qualifying games for the 1998 World Cup in Quito, the country's capital, 2,800 metres above sea level. The decision was confirmed by the national coach, Francisco "Pacho" Maturana.

→ Italian First Division club Cagliari is trying to stop striker Fabian O'Neill from joining the Uruguayan U/23 team who will compete in the South American Olympic qualifiers. The former Uruguayan youth international, bought by Cagliari for \$A1.7 million said that he wants to play for his country but it will be up to the Uruguayan officials to negotiate with his new club.

→ Hector Nunez, the Uruguay coach, will also call strikers Fernando Correa (Atletico Madrid) and Gabriel Alvez (Independiente, Argentina), and defender Edgardo Adinolfi (Haifa, Israel) to reinforce his squad.

→ Three coaches and three trainers will be in charge of the Paraguayan U/23 squad for the South American Olympic qualifiers.

The unusual decision involves coaches Gerardo Gonzalez, Ranulfo Miranda and Crispin Rafael Verza and the trainers Porfirio Maidana, Raul Navarro and Nestor Kerber (Brazilian). Paraguay will face Brazil, Uruguay, Peru and Bolivia in Tandil from February 21.

→ Venezuela coach Rafael Santana announced the inclusion of Uruguay born midfielder Gabriel Miranda in

his national senior team who will try to qualify for the 1998 World Cup. Miranda, 27, is currently playing for Mexican First Division club Atlante.

→ Uruguayan giant, Nacional of Montevideo is after skilful Paraguayan midfielder Francisco Esteche to take the vacant place left by Fabian O'Neill. Esteche is a member of the Paraguay U/23 team and plays for First Division club Sportivo Luqueno.

→ The 22 members of the Uruguay U/23 team who will take part in the South American qualifying tournament for Atlanta 1996 will receive a \$US73,000 bonus if they win a berth at the Olympics.

→ The Uruguayans will play six friendly internationals against Colombia, Argentina, Paraguay, Slovakia, Romania and Chile as part of their build-up preparation for the Olympic qualifiers.

→ Former Argentine star midfielder Norberto Alonso could be River Plate's future president. Asked if he is interested in the club's presidency, Alonso said that he may run for the position in the next elections.

Asked to name his all-time World best 11 Alonso selected: Carrizo, Fillol or Gatti (all Argentina), Carlos Alberto (Brazil), Perfumo (Argentina), Beckenbauer (Germany), Passarella (Argentina), Juan Jose Lopez (Argentina), Clodoaldo (Brazil), Pele (Brazil), Maradona (Argentina), Jairzinho (Brazil) or Alzamendi (Uruguay), Francescoli (Uruguay) or Bertoni (Argentina).

briefs... briefs... briefs... briefs...

News From Around The GL

BE

ESPANYOL STUN REAL MADRID

A hat-trick from Jordi Lardin put Real Madrid on the verge of elimination from the Spanish cup after the league title-holder crashed 4-1 in the first leg of the fourth-round tie last Thursday with Espanyol.

The game was only a minute old when Lardin pounced on a mistake in the Real defence. Another defensive error allowed Arteaga Garcia in to make it 2-0 after only six minutes.

Teenage striker Raul Gonzalez led Real's comeback, but he and Antonio Gomez were foiled by some superb work by Espanyol's substitute goalkeeper Raul Arribas, who has only played one league game in three seasons.

In the second half it was all Espanyol, as Real captain Manuel Sanchis struggled to cope with the pace of Lardin, who struck twice more in the 55th and 64th minutes.

Espanyol could have gone further ahead as Real were reduced to 10 men when keeper Paco Buyo was sent off for handling the ball outside the area 20 minutes from time.

UEFA CUP LOSS FOR ENGLAND

English Premiership clubs Tottenham and Wimbledon were banned from European competition for one year by UEFA last Friday for fielding under-strength teams in last season's Intertoto Cup.

UEFA officials are unhappy with the poor attitude of the two clubs, who fielded virtual youth teams in last summer's inaugural European competition which offers the prize of a UEFA Cup place to the winner.

The ban is expected to be for five years and is an indication of how strongly UEFA feels about the issue.

All of England's clubs have been punished as a result of the Intertoto Cup shambles by the reduction of one place in next season's UEFA Cup.

UEFA officials are refusing to comment on the issue but did indicate that they may issue a statement later.

The Football Association had been struggling to find English sides to enter the competition and both clubs were reluctant entrants.

Wimbledon had to borrow second division Brighton's Goldstone Ground to play the home matches. Tottenham, at the end of a long and tiring season, did not field stars

"We don't want the job." Choruses favourites

Tottenham's Gerry Francis and Chelsea's Glenn Hoddle last week became the latest candidates to rule themselves out of the reckoning to take over the England soccer job from Terry Venables.

Francis and Hoddle joined Newcastle's Kevin Keegan and Middlesbrough's Bryan Robson (see story page 29) in rejecting a possible coaching appointment, further reducing the Football Association's options as they search for a successor to Venables, who said last Wednesday he would step down after the June European Championship.

Francis believes FA officials should renew efforts to persuade Venables to change his mind, while Hoddle backs

Middlesbrough boss Robson for the job.

Hoddle said "I should imagine the FA want continuity and that's why Bryan Robson would be my idea of the man who would get it."

Hoddle, like Francis, would be available for England because his contract with Chelsea runs out at the end of the season and he has still not agreed a new deal.

But he added: "I haven't even thought about the England job. I don't wish to look and plan too far ahead. I have got enough problems of my own as a club manager."

Former England captain Francis was the bookmakers' favourite to succeed Venables after Keegan and Robson



Gerry Francis: Future is in football at club level.

indicated they did not want to be considered.

But Francis said: "Although my agreement with Tottenham expires this summer, at the present time I am of the same opinion as I was two years ago when I was interviewed about the England position."

"That is that if my future is in football, it would be at club level. I would also urge the Football Association to persist, if possible, to try to persuade Terry to change his mind and not to lose the invaluable experience gained over the last two years."

William Hill offers odds of 8-1 for Venables doing a U-turn and remaining in charge for the opening World Cup qualifying tie next September.

Following the announcements, confused punters latched on to Leeds' Howard Wilkinson and Forest's Frank Clark as likely contenders.

Hill's cut the rating of Leeds boss Wilkinson from 8-1 to 5-2 joint second favourite, while Clark, whose Nottingham Forest side is England's only European survivor, has shortened from 33-1 to 20-1.

Wilkinson, under contract at Leeds until the summer of 1997, refused to discuss his chances of landing the post.

Boro boss Robson, despite his claims, is the 7-4 favourite for the post, with former Switzerland manager Roy Hodgson, now in charge at Inter Milan, 12-1.

either.

Both clubs clearly angered UEFA president Lennart Johansson who made that point clear when announcing in Birmingham last month that England would lose a place in next year's UEFA Cup.

TRANSFER FEES IN-COUNTRY ARE LEGAL

The European Court ruling outlawing the payment of fees in transfers between EU countries for soccer players at the end of their contracts does not apply to transfers within a country, it was reaffirmed last week.

European Social Affairs Commissioner Padraig Flynn confirmed the interpretation of the ruling in a meeting with a delegation from the English premier league.

"It is possible to continue domestic transfers in an individual member state, that is not contrary to the court judgment," Flynn said after meeting the delegation, led by the league's chief executive Rick Parry.

"If a player (from the United Kingdom) wants to move to another club

in the UK internally, article 48 (which prohibits the restriction on freedom of movement of workers across the EU) does not apply," Flynn said.

"(This) only applies to the freedom of movement of players trans-frontier," he said.

The European Court ruled last month, after a five-year legal battle by Belgian player Jean-Marc Bosman, that UEFA transfer fee rules and restrictions on the number of non-national players a team can field infringed European Union law.

Parry said he was delighted with Flynn's comments.

"Our view throughout has been that article 48 does not impact on domestic transfers," he said.

"We want to maintain the domestic transfer system because it is our strong belief that it benefits the majority of smaller clubs. It means recycling money throughout the game."

Flynn and Parry also discussed the Court's ruling ordering UEFA to scrap its rule allowing teams to field only three non-nationals which UEFA has said it does consider applies to European club competitions.

"It's quite clear, it's explicit and it's non-

negotiable," Flynn said today.

The English premier league has already said clubs can field more than three nationals from other EU member states. Some major European clubs, eager to be able to use top foreign talent, have pressed for the rules to be changed immediately in line with the Court ruling.

Parry said he and Flynn had discussed ways of putting pressure on UEFA to comply with the court ruling but added the premier league's views would be made known to UEFA via the English FA.

EDMUNDO FACES LONG SENTENCE

The Rio district attorney's office has filed three charges of manslaughter against star soccer forward Edmundo for his role in a car crash last month.

District Attorney Leila Polastri filed the charges late last Wednesday. A judge now must decide whether to indict the player, who could face up to 12 years in prison if convicted.

Edmundo was leaving a nightclub at 3am on December 2 when the pickup truck he was driving collided with a car in Rio's

upscale Lagoa district. The pickup flipped and the car smashed into a pole.

Three passengers died of injuries. Edmundo was saved by the truck's airbag but received 10 stitches in his forehead.

Polastri cited witnesses as saying Edmundo was going at least 95 kph in a 65 kph zone.

The accident capped a disastrous year for the 24-year-old forward. Bought by Flamengo to form the "dream attack" with Romario and Savio, Edmundo played poorly, broke his toe and was suspended for 40 days for making obscene gestures to fans.

In December, Flamengo sold him to Corinthians of Sao Paulo.

SUNDERLAND v MAN. UNITED LIVE ON TV

Premier Sports channel will televise live the replay of the third round FA Cup clash between Sunderland and Manchester United on Wednesday, January 17 at 6.45am.

The replay follows an exciting 2-2 draw when the teams first met at Old Trafford last Sunday week, which Premier also televised live.

The replay will be staged at Sunderland's home ground, Roker Park.

Premier's telecast of the match can also be seen live on the pub and club channel, Premier All Star Sports.

Viewers of Premier Sports and Premier All Star Sports can catch a full replay of the match at 10pm that night.

STAY ON PLEADS ENGLISH

Both friends and enemies are suggesting that Terry Venables should stay on with England's national side.

The ground swell of support for Venables - who said last Wednesday he would step down as coach after June's European Championship finals - comes as many of the top candidates to take the job have said they don't want it.

Venables stepped down citing his wish to focus on a series of legal battles involving his business affairs. The most widely talked about case involves a suit against Tottenham Hotspur chairman Alan Sugar for firing him as the club's coach.

Now Sugar has joined fans of Venables in suggesting he may return.

"My gut feeling is that he will continue as England manager," Sugar said. "I think too many people have reacted too quickly. I know Terry has said he's not going to do it, but in a couple of months things may be different."

Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson, Venables' assistant on the national team and now the favorite to succeed him, has urged Venables to return. "I think we should try and see if Terry would stay on. I will probably be speaking to him next week and also be talking to the Football Association," Robson said.

"Terry has been working for the past 18 months preparing for the European Championship. I would like to see him go on and take us to the World Cup in France. It will be a pity if he can't go on and I hope he does change his mind."

Robson is one of five contenders for the job who initially said they wouldn't take it.

Sunday's British newspapers rallied around Venables, blasting members of the Football Association's international committee for not giving unbending support to Venables. Most suggested Venables stepped down because he lacked unanimous support - not because of his legal problems.

"Clear out football's old farts," headlined The Observer in a story written by former England international Gary Lineker.

Lineker criticised members of the international committee whose average age is almost 70. The papers widely criticised committee chairman Noel White who headed a group that questioned keeping Venables.

"This is the man who stabbed men in the back," a headline in the tabloid News of the World read above a photograph of White. Venables said he decided to resign after meeting with White a month ago.

The Sunday Telegraph suggested that Venables would stay on as technical director with Robson moving up to team coach - a pairing the paper called "The Dream Ticket."

"...a dual appointment would give the FA the best of all worlds and would also provide the continuity which chief executive Graham Kelly has said FA will be seeking," the paper said.

The Sunday Mirror went a step further. It said Robson would take the job, but only if Venables stayed on to help him.

NEWCASTLE MARCH ON WITH WIN

Newcastle's 1-0 victory last Sunday at Coventry moved the Premier League leader nine points ahead of second-placed Manchester United, capitalising on United's scoreless draw with Aston Villa the day before.

Newcastle, looking more and more like the eventual English champion, has 51 points in 22 games to 42 for Manchester United in 23. Tottenham Hotspur holds third place with 41 and Liverpool is fourth with 39.

In Sunday's only Premier League match, Steve Watson put Newcastle ahead 1-0 in the 44th minute of the first half when he picked up a loose ball near the 18-yard line and moved in unhindered to score from six yards.

The loss kept Coventry tied for 17th place in the 20-team league and under threat of relegation.

In the first division Sunday, Charlton defeated Birmingham 4-3 and Norwich defeated Sunderland 1-0.

The difference in the match for Charlton was an own goal scored by Birmingham's Andy Edwards in the 18th minute to tie the game 1-1. Charlton's Kim Grant, John Robinson and Carl Leaburn scored the next three goals to put the game away.

Norwich picked up its win when Ashley Ward's 12th goal of the season in the 12th minute proved to be the difference in the match at Sunderland.

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Hello playmates, back again with news coming out of our ears, interviews, very latest merchandise and much, much more besides.

Trouble is, there is too much to tell in one short issue so read on in the coming weeks for more details plus news of some brand new competitions too.

Firstly let me begin by saying a very big thank you to you all for the cards, letters and phone calls received during my absence. Much appreciated.

Two massive debts are now owed by myself to Colin Turner for all of the help, both done by you all and some private words/deeds which go a long way in explaining just what a gentleman he truly is.

Secondly to "Mrs Jones Boy" who never really understood just how much behind the scenes work there is and fell in at the deep end but continued to function without great consternation (although his phone bill should be extremely large with the number of UK calls he made!) Colin and Stuart are two people I am very proud to be able to call friends, which is a term I most certainly do not use lightly!

**THERE'S ONLY
ONE GARRY
NELSON...
OR IS THERE?**

Let us begin with an interview conducted with none other than Garry Nelson of Charlton Athletic at their south London training ground I met up with John (chip butty eating maestro) at the "Valley" and followed him over to where the lads were hard at work.

Whilst Garry was finishing his work-out, John and I had a cuppa that was almost thick enough to stand the spoon up in! Undeterred by this, and I hasten to add on a beautiful sunny early December morning which was about the only one! Garry came in and we began



our chat:

MB: Your book (Left Foot Forward, A year in the life of a Journeyman footballer, which we reviewed before my departure) is rated as the second best selling sports book on the market at the moment and quite rightly so, has it gone better than you anticipated.

GN: To be honest YES! I just wanted to write about what it's like for the everyday footballer and not one of its top paid stars. As I stated in the book, when the fans sing "there's only one Garry Nelson", no there isn't because there are many more players just like me.

The name may be different but to all intents and purposes, they are Garry Nelson too and I'm whatever their name may be also.

MB: Your book is not self opinionated when it comes to building up your own ego and is partly why I wanted to meet you. However, very impressed as I am with your offering, you tell it like it is right down to the bus trips and compression chambers after injury.

GN: In writing this book I wanted to relate what football is like for the vast majority of players, the

many who ply their trade in the lower divisions as opposed to the glittering world of Premier Leagues.

We would all dearly love to play for our country and in cup finals etc, but the reality is that it's not something ALL professional footballers get to do. We are paid to do a job we enjoy and good luck to those who take that extra step. Injury and coach trips to grounds are part and parcel of footballing life and to miss out on a mention wouldn't do.

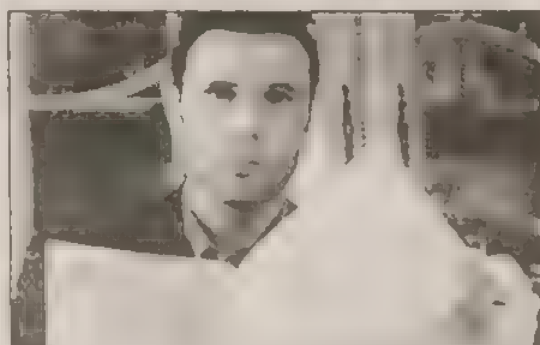
MB: Having said that, the book is not about a "them and us" divide and indeed carries a lot of humour within its pages, but instead tells of the cold hard facts of what our great game is all about. May I ask you just what the Jean-Marc Bosman decision means to the Charlton's of this world in your capacity as their Players Union Rep?

GN: We are wary about it, funny as that may seem but football has had sweeping changes made to it over the years and has survived. No doubt there will be a few problems at first but that's only normal.

My job is to tell the members what's going on and what the possible outcome could be but without being too moribund, there are obviously advantages as well as pitfalls but at this stage I feel we are all standing back so as to get the full picture.

With this decision only made in the last couple of days, it's hard to say anything else although there have been talks about it previously of course. Would you like another cup of tea?

MB: Yes please (on comes another "tea spoon holder" and we continue). Changing the subject slightly, talk of a "Premier League Division 2" seems to be getting stronger each week.



Jean-Marc Bosman: Implications will be felt at all levels in England. But the game will adjust.

Back in harness; Gary Nelson talks; Flags here!

How do you see this affecting the game and would this send many clubs to the wall?

GN: There are always rumours of this nature and you'd certainly expect something like this to happen eventually. Only time will tell of course.

It would certainly be great for the clubs in the new league with extra exposure and more revenue but like with the decision in the European High Court, football would adjust.

A lot of the so called "smaller clubs" struggle already and couldn't compete in all honesty so it's probably fair to say that many more would become clubs with "part-time" players.

Some would have to go back into non-league divisions and some may fold altogether. It may not be in its present format of divisions of course but the game will continue to be played, that's the nature of the beast.

MB: Would we perhaps see a return to a third division divided into North and South and if clubs go to the wall plus the influx of "foreign" players due to the Bosman case etc, where are the breeding grounds for our future. International stars and the Coles, Wrights, Giggs etc going to come from?

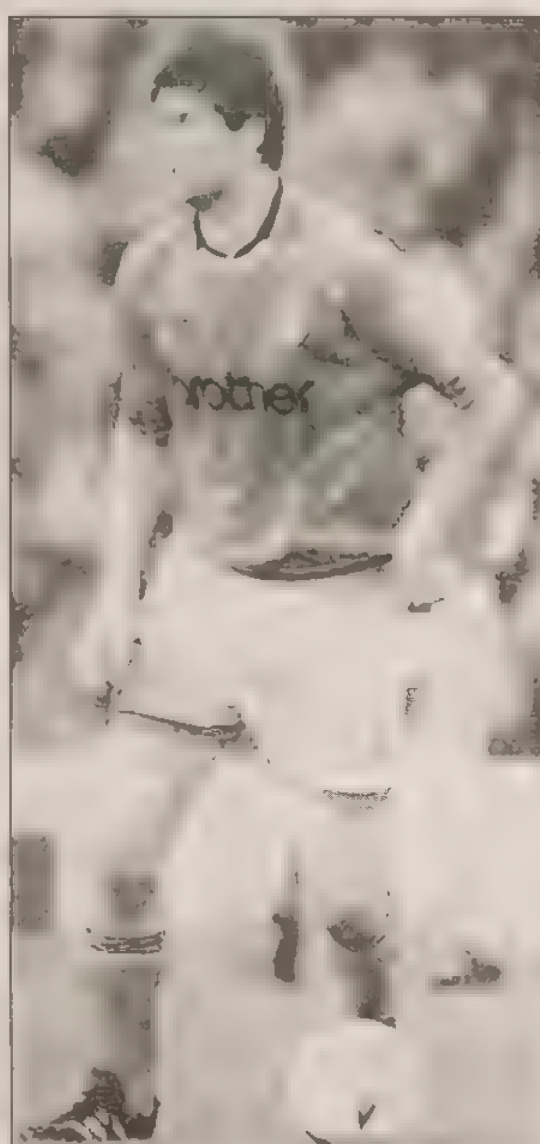
GN: That's a possibility of course and no doubt would be looked at if and when this eventuates. The two Division 3s make sense as it cuts out a lot of travelling expenditure plus local derbies are more frequent.

As for the future stars etc, most present internationals started their careers in the lower divisions and non-league. It shouldn't affect their progress too much as more teams will be playing this standard of football (divisional not quality standard).

Wherever you go in the country the game is being played and probably always will be but perhaps it means more jobs for the scouts and more travelling for them.

It's a difficult question to answer until we know what's going to happen but hypothetically, the game will cope, it has too!

MB: Lastly Garry, you've finished (and passed) your exams, you've got the top grade FA Coaching Badge. It has been mentioned more than



Niall Quinn: "I am boss but I'm quite good in the air."

once that this is your last year as a player. What does the future hold for Garry Nelson ex-pro footballer?

GN: I'd like to do some coaching clinics and the like and maybe stay in the game, perhaps, in some capacity maybe but after finishing my career as a player, I've made some contingency plans, as you've mentioned with my exams etc, that, should this not prove to be the case, I can still provide for my family.

I am working on some ideas for coaching clinics with some other ex-players and maybe America could be an option but you never know... I may play on again?

MB: Garry, thanks for your time mate, a pleasure.

GN: Cheers and hello to everyone in Australia and readers of the Australian & British Soccer Weekly.

Garry's book is published by "Hodder Headline" (whom I also visited whilst in London but that's another

Club flags from around the world, every professional club from just about every country and most certainly EVERY national flag from Afganistan to Zimbabwe (prices vary on national flags).

These flags are shown before each and every game on Sky/TV in the UK. Club flags range from Arsenal and Manchester United to Celtic, Rangers, Juventus, Barcelona and all French, German league too plus much more. All items are "OFFICIALLY LICENSED PRODUCTS" and can usually ONLY be purchased from the club shops.

However, after speaking with the owner of the company — Geoff Walker — at his HQ some 20 miles north of the wilds of Newcastle (England), we can exclusively bring these items to you DIRECT!

Flag size in question is approx: 4ft x 2 and a half feet. Priced at \$29.50 each inc postage and packing. Car flags fit ALL car windows and can be fitted/removed in seconds. priced at \$26 each and approx 15 x 12 inches in size.

We have some samples and these include Rangers, Arsenal x 2, Chelsea, Celtic, Leeds, Blackburn x 2, Everton and Liverpool.

In the car flags we have Norwich, Celtic, Blackburn and Leeds. They are not available from ANY other source within Australia and if you can buy cheaper, please feel free to do so but make sure you're buying the proper article.

Cheques made payable to UKSSD and sent to PO Box 56, Kingsway West, NSW 2208. You will NOT be disappointed with your purchase. (Articles only exchanged if damaged in transit).

It's great to be back but here's one for the road:

I can state that there is no truth in the rumour surrounding Manchester City at present. Alan Ball was reported to have trodden in some doggie poo when stepping onto the training ground recently and upon shouting "who's sh*t on the ground", Niall Quinn did NOT put up his hand and say "I am boss but I'm quite good in the air".

VENABLES TO QUIT

England coach Terry Venables is to quit after this year's European Championship finals.

England Football Association (FA) spokesman David Davies told a news conference last Wednesday Venables had informed the FA he wanted to leave at the end of his contract in June, after Euro '96.

Davies said: "Terry Venables faces a number of time-consuming legal battles in the later part of 1996, which he believes could interfere with England's efforts to qualify for the final stages of the next World Cup. And he is absolutely determined to clear his name."

Davies revealed that Venables had made his decision to stand down on December 16 — the day before England was grouped with Scotland, the Netherlands and Switzerland in the 1998 World Cup qualifiers.

"He was urged to think again over the Christmas period and while he was abroad last week," Davies said. "He told (FA chief executive) Graham Kelly that his decision was unchanged."

"The FA is deeply disappointed by his decision but understands the thinking behind it."

Venables, who returned from holiday two days

Terry Venables, who succeeded Graham Taylor as coach in January 1994, has been in charge for just 14 games. During that time he has used a total of 40 players.

When Venables took the job it was the first time in recent years that the FA had appointed a new coach on a contract which did not take him through to the next World Cup. Under Venables the national side has won six games, drawn seven and lost one, but because England qualified automatically for Euro '96 as host his teams have never been fully tested.

before the announcement. had spent the day at headquarters after indicating he wanted to settle his future sooner rather than later.

It is believed some members of the FA's 15-strong International

committee were not convinced Venables should be in charge for the 1998 World Cup.

The former Tottenham chief has been dogged by allegations about his business affairs since being appointed

England coach.

Away from the soccer field, Venables has already made various court appearances.

With other actions pending it was clear he would be unable to keep his name off the news pages or concentrate solely on soccer.

He is fighting a case for wrongful dismissal against Tottenham and is involved in three libel actions, one brought against him by Tottenham chairman Alan Sugar and two he has brought himself.

Venables and Kelly had been scheduled to fly to Poland this week to meet England's World Cup group rivals Italy, Poland, Georgia and Moldova to finalise

dates of qualifying matches over the next two years.

The coach's father, Fred Venables, told BBC Radio: "If people had left him alone to do his job then he'd have been okay. He doesn't want two people behind him, he wants the lot."

Kelly said: "It's sad that a highly valued and highly regarded and very inventive football coach, who has done well, should feel it necessary to reach the decision he has."

He added: "It's common knowledge that we have made every effort to help him and Alan Sugar resolve one of the elements that have been causing some concern and we very much hoped throughout that he would be in a position to



Terry Venables: Criticised for business dealings since being England supremo.

carry on as England coach." Kelly conceded that the

number of issues which had emerged over the last two years relating to Venables had been "greater than we might have expected." Venables told Sky News: "I felt that in the circumstances that what I've got ahead could be problematical."

"We would have a World Cup qualifying game around October or November and I could be in court for several weeks."

"I think it's maybe a bit of an embarrassment to the F.A. but in the circumstances I have made the decision and it gives them time to get somebody else."

He added: "What's been good about it is that all the speculation is now out of the way."



Keegan, Robson pull out

Kevin Keegan and Bryan Robson, the early favourites to succeed Terry Venables as England coach, effectively ruled themselves out of the running late last week.

Keegan said: "I am interested in managing nobody but Newcastle United. I have seven years left on a contract I was more than happy to sign."

Robson said: "It is all speculation at the moment, although it is nice to be thought of in this way."

"But I am still in an apprenticeship as a manager. I have 18 months of my three-year contract to run at Middlesbrough and I don't

intend moving in that time."

In his four years in charge at St James' Park, Keegan has completely transformed the fortunes of Newcastle, putting the club on course for its first championship since 1927.

At Middlesbrough, Robson has ushered in an exciting new era, capped by the signings of England international Nick Barmby and Brazilian Juninho.

Tottenham's Gerry Francis has become the bookmakers' firm favourite, although Howard Wilkinson of Leeds, Chelsea's Glenn Hoddie and ex-Ireland chief Jack Charlton have all been tipped.



Club bans player after positive cocaine test

Leyton Orient defender Roger Stanislaus has been suspended by his club after being charged by the English FA with misconduct following a positive drug test.

The third division club took the action last Wednesday pending the outcome of an FA hearing.

Stanislaus is the first British soccer professional to test positive for cocaine immediately after a game. He was selected for random testing after Orient's league match against Barnet on November 25.

Orient chairman



Barry Hearn said: "Due to the seriousness of the charge it would be entirely inappropriate for Roger to continue playing for the club until this matter is resolved."

"Everybody at Orient is very conscious that we have a large following of young people and we must lead by example."



Drugs not a new problem

Orient Chairman Barry Hearn asked about the level of drug abuse in soccer, said: "I'm shocked by drugs in society and I don't think football is any different. It's always unpleasant when it rears its ugly head."

The players' union believes the creation of the FA's mobile doping control unit is helping to combat the problem within the sport.

"The level of positive tests, while a concern, does not give rise to the feeling that the game is rife with players using drugs," said spokesman

Brendan Batson.

Up until now, most of the offenders revealed by the random tests have been young players using cannabis as a social drug, like Tottenham's Chris Armstrong.

Paul Merson (left), at Highbury when Stanislaus was a youngster, admitted experimenting with cocaine and in line with FA policy was given education and rehabilitation rather than punishment, though his problems were mainly caused by alcohol and gambling abuse.

If found guilty, Stanislaus can expect

little mercy from the FA for offending on two major counts — the use of a performance enhancing drug within a timescale which embraced a competitive match.

"Any traces of a performance enhancing drug, particularly after a match, must be treated as a matter of the utmost seriousness," said FA spokesman Steve Double.

"In this case the test level of the sample is thought to be performance-enhancing and there is clearly a case to answer on those grounds," he added.

'6 FROM 38 POOLS

THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST

WEEK 547
SAT. 20TH JANUARY, 1996

ENGLISH PREMIER DIVISION	ARSENAL	EVERTON	1
	BLACKBURN	SHEFFIELD WED.	2
	CHELSEA	NOTTINGHAM F.	3
	MAN. CITY	COVENTRY	4
	NEWCASTLE	BOLTON	5
	WEST HAM	MAN. UTD	6
	WIMBLEDON	QPR	7
ENGLISH DIVISION 1	BARNLEY	CRYSTAL P.	8
	CHARLTON	WEST BROM.	9
	GRIMSBY	MILLWALL	10
	HUDDERSFIELD	OLDHAM	11
	READING	STOKE	12
	SHEFFIELD UTD	WATFORD	13
	SOUTHEND	PORTSMOUTH	14
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	WOLVES	TRANMERE	15
	BLACKPOOL	BRISTOL C.	16
	BOURNEMOUTH	BRADFORD C.	17
	BRENTFORD	YORK	18
	BRIGHTON	PETERBORO	19
	BRISTOL R.	CARLISLE	20
	CHESTERFIELD	OXFORD UTD	21
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	CREWE	WYCOMBE	22
	NOTTS COUNTY	WREXHAM	23
	ROTHERHAM	BURNLEY	24
	SHREWSBURY	SWANSEA	25
	STOCKPORT	WALSALL	26
	SWINDON	HULL	27
	BARNET	HEREFORD	28
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	BURY	NORTHAMPTON	29
	CAMBRIDGE U.	SCUNTHORPE	30
	CARDIFF	ROCHDALE	31
	DARLINGTON	EXETER	32
	HARTLEPOOL	CHESTER	33
	LINCOLN	PRESTON	34
	MANSFIELD	FULHAM	35
ENGLISH DIVISION 5	PLYMOUTH	COLCHESTER	36
	SCARBORO	DONCASTER	37
	TORQUAY	LEYTON O.	38

RESERVE MATCHES

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIV	* WIGAN A.	GILLINGHAM	39
	ABERDEEN	PARTICK	49
	HIBERNIAN	MOTHERWELL	41
	KILMARNOCK	CELTIC	42
	RAITH	FALKIRK	43
	RANGERS	HEARTS	44
	CLYDEBANK	G'N'CK MORTON	45
SCOTTISH DIVISION 1	DUMBARTON	DUNDEE U.	46
	DUNDEE	ST. MIRREN	47
	HAMILTON	DUNFERMLINE	48
	ST. JOHNSTONE	AIRDRIE	49
	BERWICK	EAST FIFE	50
	CLYDE	STRANRAER	51
	FORFAR	STIRLING A.	52
SCOTTISH DIVISION 2	Q. OF SOUTH	AYR	53
	STENH'UIR	MONTROSE	54
	BRECHIN	ALBION R.	55

* ENGLISH DIVISION THREE
† SCOTTISH DIVISION THREE

SCORE DRAWS ARE CALCULATED FROM GAME 38 BACKWARD

GET YOUR POOLS IN

Don't forget
Pools Quick Pick

MATCH RESULTS

WEEK 546
SAT. 13TH JANUARY, 1996

ENGLISH PREMIER DIVISION	BOLTON	WIMBLEDON	1	1-0
	EVERTON	CHELSEA	2	1-1
	MAN. UTD	ASTON VILLA	3	0-0
	MIDDLESBRO	ARSENAL	4	2-3
	NOTTINGHAM F.	SOUTHAMPTON	5	1-0
	QPR	BLACKBURN	6	0-1
	TOTTENHAM	MAN. CITY	7	1-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 1	DERBY	READING	8	3-0
	LUTON	SOUTHEND	9	3-1
	MILLWALL	PORT VALE	10	1-2
	OLDHAM	BARNLEY	11	0-1
	PORTSMOUTH	GRIMSBY	12	3-1
	STOKE	LEICESTER	13	1-0
	TRANMERE	SHEFFIELD UTD	14	1-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	WATFORD	HUDDERSFIELD	15	0-1
	BRADFORD C.	BRIGHTON	16	1-3
	BRISTOL C.	CREWE	17	3-2
	BURNLEY	STOCKPORT	18	4-3
	CARLISLE	CHESTERFIELD	19	1-1
	HULL	ROTHERHAM	20	1-4
	OXFORD UTD	BRENTFORD	21	2-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	PETERBORO	BOURNEMOUTH	22	4-5
	SWANSEA	BRISTOL R.	23	2-2
	WALSALL	SHREWSBURY	24	3-0
	WREXHAM	BLACKPOOL	25	1-1
	WYCOMBE	NOTTS COUNTY	26	1-1
	YORK	SWINDON	27	2-0
	CHESTER	BURY	28	1-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	COLCHESTER	BARNET	29	3-2
	DONCASTER	TORQUAY	30	1-0
	EXETER	HARTLEPOOL	31	PP
	FULHAM	SCARBORO	32	1-0
	GILLINGHAM	LINCOLN	33	2-0
	HEREFORD	CAMBRIDGE U.	34	5-2
	LEYTON O.	MANSFIELD	35	1-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 5	NORTHAMPTON	CARDIFF	36	1-0
	PRESTON	PLYMOUTH	37	3-2
	ROCHDALE	DARLINGTON	38	1-2

RESULTS AND DIVIDEND HOTLINES

Phone: 0055 33111 Australia, Wide. Or, Sydney
0055 29043; Melbourne (03) 11521; Brisbane (07)
11699; Adelaide (08) 11521; Perth (09) 11520.
Results are available from 8pm.
Sundays, dividends after 5pm Mondays.

THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT 13/1/96 WEEK 546

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURRED										NO. OF WEEKS NUMBER OCCURRED									
1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70

Results History is from Week 38, the start of six from 38 Pools

RESULTS OF WEEK 546 SAT. JANUARY 13, 1996

Winning Match Numbers (in numerical order):

14, 19, 23, 25, 26, 28.

Supplementary Number 2

SOCCER POOLS FORM GUIDE

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE										SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts												
Newcastle	22	16	3	3	43	18	51			Chester	25	12	8	5	43	29	44		
Manchester Utd	23	12	6	5	41	27	42			Colchester	24	10	9	5	37	29	39		
Tottenham	23	11	8	4	32	22	41			Plymouth	24	10	7	7	29	28	37		
Liverpool	22	11	8	5	41	21	39			Bury	24	9	9	6	29	30	36		
Arsenal	23	10	7	6	31	22	37			Darlington	23	9	9	5	26	22	36		
Nottingham Forest	22	9	10	3	33	31	37			Doncaster	23	10	5	8	27	31	35		
Aston Villa	21	10	6	5	27	15	36			Cambridge	24	9	6	9	38	41	33		
Blackburn	23	10	5	8	34	26	35			Rochdale	23	9	5	9	34	28	32		
Leeds	22	10	5	7	30	27	35			Wigan	24	8	8	8	31	31	32		
Everton	23	9	6	8	33	25	33			Northampton	24	8	7	9	27	25	31		
Middlesbrough	23	9	6	8	25	24	33			Leyton Orient	25	8	7	10	25	33	31		
Chelsea	23	8	9	6	24	25	33			Exeter	25	6	12	7	27	30	30		
Sheffield Wed	22	6	8	8	33	33	26			Barnet	25	6	12	7	26	29	30		
West Ham	21	6	5	10	22	32	23			Hereford	23	6	10	7	32	29	28		
Wimbledon	23	5	6	12	31	45	21			Scunthorpe	22	6	8	8	31	29	26		
Southampton	22	4	8	10	20	32	20			Fulham	23	5	11	7	29	32	26		
Coventry	22	4	7	11	28	44	19			Hartlepool	23	6	8	9	24	33	26		
Manchester City	22	5	4	13	12	32	19			Cardiff	25	6	8	11	23	30	26		
QPR	22	5	3	15	17	34	18			Scarborough	24	5	10	9	26	34	25		
Bolton	23	3	4	16	22	44	13			Mansfield	24	4	12	8	31	43	24		
										Lincoln	23	5	7	11	23	35	22		
										Torquay	24	2	8	14	20	48	14		
ENGLISH DIVISION ONE										SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION									
Derby	26	14	7	5	44	29	49			Rangers	23	17	5	1	55	10	56		
Charlton	25	11	9	5	35	27	42			Celtic	22	15	6	1	41	17	51		
Huddersfield	27	11	8	8	37	32	41			Hearts	22	9	4	9	33	35	31		
Stoke	26	10	9	7	37	32	39			Hibernian	22	9	4	9	33	40	31		
Leicester	25	10	8	7	40	36	38			Aberdeen	20	9	2	9	31	25	29		
Norwich	27	10	6	9	39	33	38			Raith	21	7	5	9	24	33	26		
Birmingham	25	10	8	7	37	34	38			Kilmarnock	21	6	4	11	27	36	22		
Sunderland	23	10	8	5	30	20	38			Partick	21	5	4	12	15	33	19		
Southend	26	10	8	8	29	31	38			Falkirk	21	5	3	13	18	34	18		
Grimsby	25	9	10	6	31	30	37			Motherwell	21	2	9	10	13	27	15		
Barnsley	26	9	9	8	34	41	36			SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE									
Millwall	26	9	9	8	27	32	36			Dundee Utd	23	12	7	4	41	24	43		
Ipswich	25	8	10	7	45	37	34			Dunfermline	20	13	1	6	41	21	40		
Tranmere	24	9	7	8	35	27	34			Greenock Morton	20	11	3	6	35	24	36		
Crystal Palace	24	8	9	7	31	32	33			Dundee	21	9	7	5	34	27	34		
Portsmouth	27	8	8	11	43	44	32			St Johnstone	21	9	5	7	30	22	32		
Oldham	25	7	10	8	34	29	31			Airdrieonians	20	7	7	11	26	28	28		
Port Vale	26	7	8	11	32	39	29			Clydebank	20	6	7	7	25	30	25		
Reading	25	6	10	9	31	38	28			St Mirren	20	5	7	7	22	29	22		
Wolverhampton	25	5	10	10	30	36	25			Hamilton	21	3	4	14	19	38	13		
West Bromwich	25	7	4	14	28	41	25			Dumbarton	20	3	2	15	16	50	11		
Watford	24	5	9	10	27	31	24			SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO									
Sheffield United	25	5	7	13	32	44	22			East Fife	18	13	3	2	15	10	42		
Luton	24	5	7	12	22	37	22			Stirling	19	10	7	2	38	19	37		
ENGLISH DIVISION TWO										Berwick	18	9	4	5	33	17	31		
Swindon	24	13	8	3	39	17	47			Stenhousemuir	19	8	4	7	31	25	28		
Crewe	23	13	5	5	44	26	44			Stranraer	19	5	11	3	21	20	26		
Blackpool	23	11	7	5	35	24	40			Forfar	19	6	5	7	16	27	23		
Notts County	22	11	7	4	34	19	40			Clyde	18	5	7	6	19	13	22		
Bury	23	10	8	5	39	30	38			Ayr	18	5	4	9	15	22	19		
Chesterfield	23	10	7	6	35	25	37			Queen of South	18	2	7	9	21	36	13		
Bradford	24	11	4	9	35	37	37			Montrose	19	1	4	14	13	43	7		
Shrewsbury	25	11	4	10	34	33	37			SCOTTISH DIVISION THREE									
Wrexham	23	8	11	4	35	26	35			Livingston	19	11	4	4	25	11	37		
Wycombe	23	8	11	4	31	23	35			Ross County	20	8	9	3	34	22	33		
Bournemouth	25	10	5	10	30	35	35			Brechin	19	9	6	4	23	12	33		
Oxford	23	9	7	7	31	24	34			Arbroath	20	8	7	5	26	26	31		
Stockport	25	8	9	8	32	28	33			Caledonian Thistle	18	8	6	4	29	19	30		
Walsall	23	8	8	7	27	18	32			Cowdenbeath	19	7	3	9	28	33	24		
Bristol Rovers	24	8	7	9	27	35	31			Queen's Park	21	6	5	10	24	29	25		
Bristol City	24	7	9	8	25	32	30			East Stirling	20	5	5	10	32	38	20		
Peterborough	23	6	8	9	32	37	25			Alloa	18	4	6	8	16	29	11		
Rotherham	24	6	7	11	29	39	26			Albion	20	5	1	14	25	33	16		
York	23	7	4	12	27	37	25			NORTHERN IRISH PREMIER DIVISION									
Carlisle	25	5	9	11	30	39	24			Portlaoine	15	9	4	2	34	15	31		
Brighton	24	6	4	14	22	38	22			Crusaders	16	9	2	5	25	20	29		
Swansea	24	4	9	11	24	41	21			Glenrath	16	8	4	4	34	21	21		
Brentford	23	5	6	12	19	31	21			Glenavon	15	8	3	4	26	12	26		
Hull	23	2	8	13	18	40	14			Linfield	16	5	5	6	18	22	21		
ENGLISH DIVISION THREE										Cliftonville	16	3	6	7	14	50	18		
Gillingham	24	14	7	3	32	8	49			Swansea	15	2	5	8	15	24	18		
Preston	24	11	11	2	51	23	44			Bangor	15	2	3	10	12	30	11		

LEAGUE CUP SEMI FINALS

The first leg matches are due to be played on February 11 and 14 and the second leg matches on February 21 and 25.

**Arsenal
v
Aston Villa**

**Leeds
v
Norwich
or
Birmingham**

Side-line confrontation prompted by send off

Arsenal manager Bruce Rioch and Newcastle coach Terry McDermott will be quizzed by the Football Association (FA) about their furious touchline bust-up sparked by the dismissal of David Ginola during last Wednesday's League Cup quarter-final at Highbury.

While the police will be taking no action over the incident, seen by millions of television viewers plus a near-38,000 crowd, the feuding pair face punishment by the FA.

Match referee Gerald Ashby was ordered to submit an instant report of the incident, which occurred after Newcastle's French winger Ginola was sent off in the 66th minute of the match won 2-0 by Arsenal.

Ashby did not see the



start of the fracas but has made his report on the evidence of a linesman, who described it as "an aggressive, verbal confrontation."

FA spokesman Steve Double said on Thursday: "We will be writing to Bruce Rioch and Terry McDermott asking for their observations on the incident."

Rioch and McDermott could face charges of bringing the game into disrepute and the fact that the FA launched an inquiry so promptly showed the

strength of concern.

Rioch admitted he lost his temper following a remark by McDermott, which is believed to have referred to the Arsenal manager's own combative style during his playing days.

Newcastle boss Kevin Keegan indicated he intends to appeal against Ginola's first booking in the game when Ashby ruled that the Frenchman had dived in search of a free kick after a challenge by Nigel Winterburn.

But it was clear that Ginola was sent-off in the second half purely for flailing his right arm into the face of Arsenal defender Lee Dixon and that the red card he was shown was nothing to do with the earlier yellow one.

Ginola now looks certain to be given a three-match suspension, starting in two weeks, once the FA receives Ashby's full report.

Dixon and Ginola clashed two years ago when Ginola's former club Paris St. Germain met Arsenal in the European Cup Winners Cup at Highbury and their encounter on this occasion was no-less combative.



David Ginola: Controversial send off.

Wright fires Arsenal

Ian Wright's two goals and his sixth in six games gave Arsenal a 2-0 upset win over Newcastle in the quarter-finals of England's League Cup.

The loss eliminated Premier league leader Newcastle, which was bidding to win all three of England's major competitions - the League and FA cups and the league championship.

Wright scored his 17th goal of the season late in the first half and then snared his 18th in the final minutes of the game to clinch the victory.

In other League Cup quarter-finals, Norwich drew 1-1 with Birmingham 1, Leeds beat Reading 2-1 and Aston Villa beat Wolverhampton 1-0.

Villa took its 1-0 victory over first-division Wolverhampton on a goal in the 66th minute by Tommy Johnson.

In a game of first-division clubs, striker Kevin Francis fired Birmingham into a 1-0 lead after 64 minutes, but Robert Fleck equalised for Norwich after 69.

Player-manager Jimmy Quinn gave first-division Reading a 1-0 lead at Leeds after 17 minutes. South African Phil Masinga levelled the score for Leeds after 35 minutes and Welsh international Gary Speed put the Premier League club up 2-1 after 44 minutes.

DIXON TACTICS WORKED

Arsenal's Lee Dixon admitted last Thursday he deliberately set out to frustrate Newcastle opponent David Ginola in Wednesday's bruising League Cup quarter-final clash.

But he offered no sympathy to the gifted winger for the sending off. The Frenchman will now be suspended for three matches for elbowing Dixon in the face.

Dixon, given the run-around by

Ginola in a recent league match, said: "He is probably one of the most talented forwards I have played against but it was my job to cope with him. I could see he was getting very frustrated and when that happens I know I am doing my job well."

"I still don't know what happened with the sending off. I felt a pain in the side of my face and then must have just blacked-out for a while."

Celtic to fight bigotry

Famous Scottish club Celtic Club has launched a campaign to challenge sectarianism and bigotry in Scottish society.

The club aims to promote itself as an organisation for all people regardless of sex, age, religion or race.

Celtic manager Tommy Burns said he hoped the initiative could create a positive and acceptable environment for all supporters, particularly young children.

"It's trying to get the message across to people that to take five- and six-year-old kids to games and breed them to hate somebody because they are a Catholic or Protestant is not on," he said.



Sheffield pay club record for Hutchison



Relegation-threatened English First Division club Sheffield United last Wednesday signed midfielder Don Hutchison for a club-record \$A2.50 million from premier league side West Ham.

Best had impact

Plans to make a film about 1960s wizard George Best have become bogged down in legal argument.

Co-writers Les Scott and John Lynch asked soccer fans 10 months ago to dip into their memories of a tragic 1964 FA Cup match — two people were killed and 80 injured when a gate collapsed — in which the wayward star played. There was a mass response.

But they are no nearer achieving their aim of recreating the dramatic crowd scenes as around 100,000 people tried to cram into Sunderland's Roker Park for the team's replay with a Manchester United team which included Best, on March 4, 1964.

The reason, explained Sunderland-born Scott, is that the proposals for the film, set to be made in the Irish Republic, have

become bogged down in discussions between legal representatives of Candia Productions, Best, and the publishers of a book, The Best of Times, which Scott and Best wrote jointly.

Scott said: "They are discussing matters which need to be sorted out

before the film project can go ahead but it is frustrating that in the meantime we are not making progress."

He wants the film to open with the 1964 game because the crowd scenes had a big impact on Best, who was then just 17.

Gas suspected in captain's death

Dunfermline's Scottish First Division match at Dumbarton was called off last Tuesday after the death of Dunfermline club captain Norrie McCathie.

The bodies of McCathie, 34, and 26-year-old Amanda Burns were found at the player's home the night before.

A police spokesman said: "One line of inquiry is that carbon monoxide fumes from the gas heating system were responsible, but we will not know until the results of the post mortems."

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v
SOUTH MELBOURNE
MELBOURNE CROATIAN SPORT CENTRE - 7.30PM



SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

MORWELL FALCONS
v
ADELAIDE CITY
MORWELL FALCONS PARK - 7.00PM



SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

CANBERRA COSMOS
v
WEST ADELAIDE
BRUCE STADIUM - 7.00PM



SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

WOLLONGONG CITY
v
UTS OLYMPIC
BRANDON PARK - 7.00PM



SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

SYDNEY UNITED
v
MARCONI FAIRFIELD
SYDNEY UNITED SPORT CENTRE - 7.00PM



SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

BRISBANE STRIKERS
v
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS
SUNCORP STADIUM - 7.00PM



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